SUPER / E2

In Istanbul, Ruffa hops from Asia to Europe every day

BUSINESS / B1

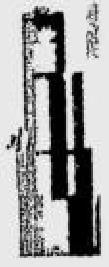
BPI forms banking subsidiary for OFWs, offers 24/7 investment counseling

METRO / A19

P19-M misdeclared ukay-ukay frozen pork cuts and woven fabrics seized

WORLD / A21

FBI arrests 7 people suspected of plotting to hit Sears Tower



PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
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Top PNP post a toss-up between Calderon, Razon

By Luige A. del Puerto

A TOSS-UP BETWEEN DEPUTY CHIEFS OSCAR Calderon and Avelino Razon Jr. is how outgoing police chief Director General Arturo Lomibao sees the outcome of the contest for the top police post which he is set to vacate next month.

But that assumes that the term of Lomibao, who will reach the retirement age of 56 on July 5, is not

TOP/ A8

Now, it's Gloria vs thinking class

By Philip C. Tubeza, Christian V. Esguerra and Armand N. Nocum

IT'S THE THINKING CLASS vs GMA.

Many among the country's intellectual and literary class would want President

NOW, IT'S/ A4

PATI MGA INTELEKTWAL UMAANGAL NA!

GMA in charge: 'I'm fine'

San Beda law school drops 26 top profs

By Christian V. Esguerra

ONE OF THE COUNTRY'S PRESTIGIOUS law schools has lost 26 of its top professors over a row with the dean who decided to keep three senior students who had failed twice in two subjects.

These professors—three of them regional trial court judges—were not re-hired this semester. They were signatories in a petition seeking the resignation of Virgilio Jara, dean of the 58-year-old San Beda Law School.

Many of them had been teaching in the school for at least 10 years until they were shown the door, according to Sixto Brillantes, president of the law school's alumni association and a member of the teaching force since 1966.

"These are no ordinary teachers—they're veterans and good at what they are doing," he told the INQUIRER in an interview Wednesday. "Besides, what wrong have they done to lose their teaching posts?"

Rocky Delson, the prefect of students, yesterday admitted that the 26 teachers were not re-hired in connection with their demand for the dean's resignation.

"They signed the letter demanding Jara's resignation," he told the INQUIRER, explaining that the dean had the right to "demand respect" from the faculty. "So he said, 'perhaps it's better that these professors don't teach

SAN BEDA/ A8

THE PATIENT seems impatient to get back to work. President Arroyo looking well and cheery in her suite at the St.Luke's Hospital has her laptop good and ready and meets her chief of staff Mike Defensor and Presidential Management Staff chief Arthur Yap. MALACAÑANG PHOTO

Infection blamed on killer work schedule

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Christine Avendaño

CABINET OFFICIALS ARE HOPING that President Macapagal-Arroyo's hospital confinement would convince their workaholic boss—who also has a hearty appetite for food—to finally slow down before her killer schedule gets her, and more of her top advisers.

So punishing has been Ms Arroyo's working hours that two of her previous executive secretaries and a chief of staff ended up having to undergo heart operations.

"I hope this incident will make her realize that any machine that is overworked can have a breakdown," Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez told the INQUIRER.

Ms Arroyo was diagnosed with acute infectious diarrhea apparently caused by work-related stress.

"I already told her months ago that we, she in particular, have to slow down," said Presidential Chief of Staff Michael Defensor, who was chosen to air the complaints of his Cabinet peers who could not keep up with the President's hectic work day.

But Ms Arroyo did not heed Defensor's request.

"She continued to work from 6 a.m. to 2 a.m. on the average. Even upon the insistence of the core group that drafts her schedule, she overrules us and continues to add more to her schedules," said Defensor.

Gonzalez said that most Cabinet sessions would last seven hours.

"The President controls the meeting, she is never a passive participant," Gonzalez said.

A very late sleeper, Ms Arroyo was also said to bring paper work right to the presidential suite.

Ms Arroyo's style of working, which is characterized by attention to details, has left her Cabinet secretaries gasping for breath or with little time for sleep.

INFECTION/ A6

President leaves hospital today

By Christine O. Avendaño

EVEN IN HER HOSPITAL bed, cradling a computer on her lap, she gave the impression of being at work and in command.

"I'm feeling fine, I'm feeling fine," President Macapagal-Arroyo said yesterday, in a bid to assure the nation that she was well, up and about, and very much in charge.

A day after being rushed to the St. Luke's Medical Center with abdominal pains, Ms Arroyo, her hair buffed and her face made up, made her first public appearance to show that she had recovered from her ailment and was not suffering from anything else.

Her doctors said she had a case of "acute infectious diarrhea" and that while she could already be discharged from the hospital, her family chose to keep her there until today so she could rest before leaving for Europe on Sunday.

Presidential Chief of Staff Michael Defensor said the President would leave the hospital today and would push ahead with her original schedule to sign a bill repealing the death penalty at 10 a.m.

Defensor stressed that Ms Arroyo remained very much in charge of the government despite her ailment.

"We have nothing to worry. She is giving us directives and directions and so there's no reason for her not to continue to run the government," Defensor said.

"There's no need to really have someone designated as officer in charge. She is in charge."

In a medical bulletin at 6 o'clock last night, the doctors said Ms Arroyo had "fully recovered, (and is) back to her usual self, after she has rested comfortably."

They rejected suggestions that she might have suffered a case of food poisoning, saying they did

GMA IN CHARGE/ A6

Bomb blasts Maguindanao governor convoy; 6 killed

By Jeoffrey Maitem, Edwin Fernandez and Nash Maulana
PDI Mindanao Bureau

SHARIFF AGUAK, MAGUINDANAO—A bomb exploded early yesterday at a crowded public market here as a convoy carrying Maguindanao Gov. Andal Ampatuan was passing by, killing six people, including three of his relatives and a three-year old girl, police said.

Supt. Lumala Gunting, Maguindanao police chief, said at least 10 civilians were also injured in the blast that occurred at around 7 a.m. yesterday. But Ampatuan, a close ally of President Macapagal-Arroyo, was unhurt.

Since 2001, Ampatuan has survived at least 10 assassination attempts by still unidentified suspects.

Many of the bombs used in past attacks were fashioned from mortar shells.

The bomb, he said, was placed inside a red Suzuki multi-cab parked in front of the town's newly-built market.

"There's no other target but the governor," said Gunting. "Ampatuan was on the lead car and was going to his farm when the explosion occurred," he said.

Most of those killed were in the second car, a Toyota Revo, he said.

The fatalities were identified as Edzrapel Mangansakan Abdulrakman Kasuyo, 50, a defeated mayoralty aspirant in Pikit, North Cotabato and a close ally of the governor; Kamlon Ampatuan; Cajelo Datumanong, a nephew of Maguindanao Rep. Simeon Datumanong; an unidentified bodyguard, and the three-year-old girl, who was on the roadside when the bomb went off. Another male victim, also a relative of Ampatuan, later died at the hospital.

"It was a well planned attack, but it failed to hit its target," Gunting said.

Investigators who rushed to the scene said the bomb was fashioned out of four mortar shells which were hidden in the van and detonated as Ampatuan's convoy was passing the market.

Col. Franklin del Prado, spokesperson of the Army's 6th Infantry Division, said samples collected from the blast site were consistent with the components of an 81-millimeter mortar shell. He did not elaborate.

BOMB/ A8

Step-sis tells how fun trip became a nightmare

By Volt Contreras and Tarra V. Quismundo

THE TRIP TO OLONGAPO CITY from their native Zamboanga was supposed to be about fun. But things took a horrifying turn and two sisters face the darkest moment of their lives as they pursue a rape case against four United States soldiers.

A stepsister of "Nicole," the 22-year-old complainant in the Subic rape case, yesterday gave what may yet be the most agonized testimony heard at the trial, recounting how a casual dance floor encounter with US soldiers turned their night-out into a nightmare.

Anna Liza Franco, 25, related how she saw Nicole dancing with one of the accused US Marines at the Neptune Club before losing sight of her and finding her some two hours later at their hotel with a police escort and "in a state of shock."

Franco delivered the last 30 minutes of her three-hour testimony in tears, prompting Makati Judge Benjamin Pozon to adjourn the hearing an hour early. She will resume her testimony on Monday.

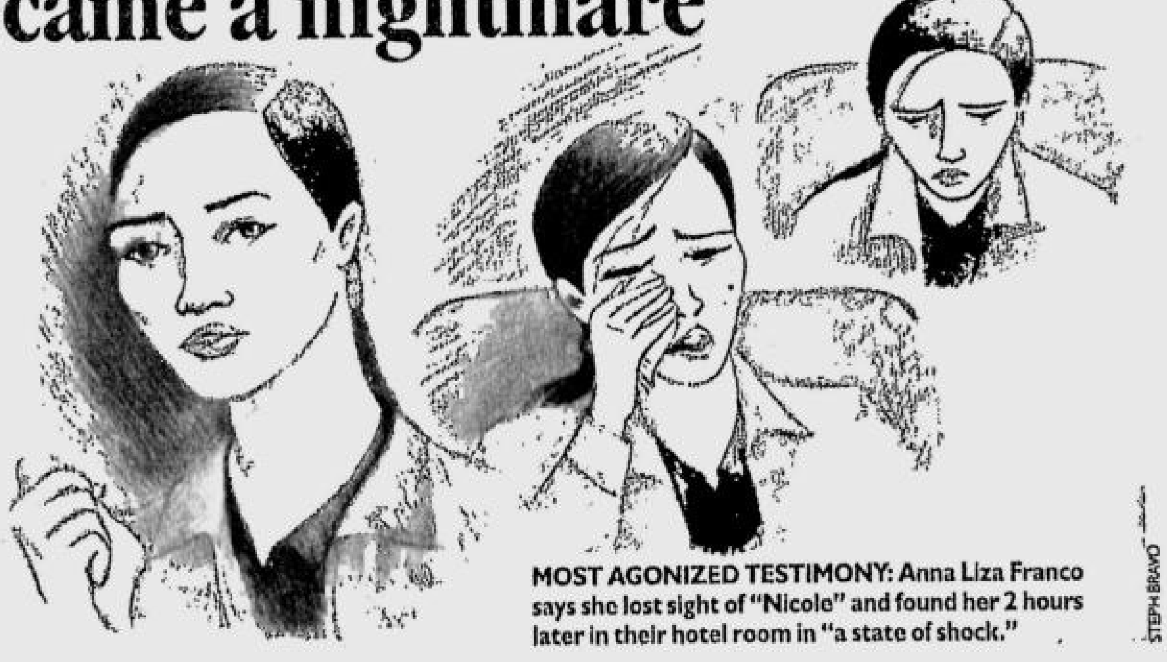
As the gallery emptied, the sisters embraced, with Nicole rubbing the back of a still sobbing Franco.

Testifying in Filipino on direct examination by private prosecutor Evalyn Ursua, Franco told the court what she remembered from the time the two arrived in Subic until the moment she saw a distraught Nicole after the alleged rape.

She also pointed to accused Lance Cpl. Daniel Smith as the man she saw dancing with her stepsister inside the Neptune Club minutes before she lost sight of her.

Nicole has accused Smith of raping her at the back of a Starex van at about 11:30 p.m. on Nov. 1, 2005, while cruising around the Subic Bay Freeport, as Staff Sgt. Chad Carpentier and Lance Corporals Dominic Duplantis and Keith Silkwood cheered him on.

STEP-SIS/ A4



MOST AGONIZED TESTIMONY: Anna Liza Franco says she lost sight of "Nicole" and found her 2 hours later in their hotel room in "a state of shock."

STEPH BRAVO

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Southern Luzon including Aurora Province, Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. Rest of Luzon will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms mostly in the afternoon or evening.

COMPILED BY KATE PEDROSO PDI RESEARCH/06/23/06 SOURCE PAGASA

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

‘You can’t kill an insurgency’

By Luige del Puerto

GOVERNMENT FORCES MAY SUCCEED IN killing every last rebel in the country but the insurgency will not go away that easily, a top police official said yesterday.

“You can kill all the insurgents, but you cannot kill the insurgency,” said the Philippine National Police official who did not want to be named for fear of antagonizing his military colleagues.

“It’s an aggressive stance, it’s a macho stance… it’s like killing all criminal elements, but there will be another set of criminals after,” said the police official whose views echoed an assessment made earlier by Police Director General Vidal Querol, chief of the National Capital Region Police Office.

President Macapagal-Arroyo’s recent order to the Armed Forces to wipe out the communist insurgency in two years has become a source of unspoken rivalry between the military and the police organizations.

Anti-insurgency is traditionally the job of the PNP as the civilian agency in charge of internal security. The AFP’s job is to defend the country from external attack.

Various police officials and Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno have urged Malacañang to give the PNP an equal role with the AFP in the new aggressive anti-insurgency campaign which comes with a P1-billion budget.

Querol and the unnamed PNP official provide a glimpse into how the police organization views the government’s renewed all-out drive against the Communist Party of the Philippines and its armed wing, the New People’s Army.

Querol said military operations solve only one aspect of a multi-faceted problem. After the rebels are driven out, government must usher in economic development, he said.

Otherwise, the insurgency will resurface “like a virus” needing a more potent cure, Querol said.

“If you take out the armed component and the government does nothing to improve livelihood, at the end of the day people are still poor. If your stomach rumbles, then your mind succumbs… to propaganda,” he said.

The unnamed PNP official said the key to solving the rebellion is to allow the same opportunities in urban centers to trickle down to the countryside.

He noted that the NPA has been effective in exploiting the “inability of government to deliver services in remote areas” where job opportunities are scarce and the rebellion offers an alternative way of life.

Querol said the government was on the right track with the renewed anti-insurgency campaign. Any money that would aid the military and police in fighting rebels is very much welcome, he said.

But to strike at the root of the problem is to “liberate ordinary people from the clutches of poverty,” he said.

But the unnamed police official warned that “a lot of people would just die” if government moves against the rebels without getting the support of the people.

The battle against the communists must be waged in the context of a “just war,” and government must occupy the “moral high ground” at all times, he said.

This means banishing the concept of “collateral damage” from the vocabulary of officers dealing with military campaigns.

“There must be no unnecessary victims… If a non-combatant father dies even [in a] legitimate military operation, the pain remains and the sense of deprivation is there,” he said, adding that the surviving kin now become vulnerable to recruitment.

The Commission on Human Rights yesterday said the billion-peso budget for final push against the communist insurgency would be better spent developing far-flung barangays, not on guns and attack helicopters.

“People side with the New People’s Army because government has done nothing about their plight,” said Dominador Calamba II, CHR officer in charge.

“The NPAs lend them money, give them fertilizers, help them in their livelihood,” he said.

Calamba said it was the government’s right and obligation to fight the insurgency and protect the state.

“But the fight should not be tarred by human rights violations… the innocent are protected,” he said.

Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz yesterday announced the government will provide P1.5 billion for on-base housing for soldiers.

The amount, to come from the earnings of the Malampaya natural gas project, will be deposited “in the next few days” in the modernization trust fund of the AFP, Cruz announced at the 108th anniversary celebrations of the Philippine Navy.

He said the money will be used to build some 3,000 housing units. The lack of military housing has been an issue in several coup attempts. *With reports from Norman Bordadora and Fe B. Zamora*

REP. SATUR OCAMPO and wife Carolina Malay at airport immigration window. JESS YUSON

Satur leaves after airport flap

By Nikko Dizon

AFTER MANY FRUSTRATING moments at the airport when he believed government rancor would force him to miss his flight, Bayan Muna partylist Rep. Satur Ocampo was able to take a Lufthansa plane for Geneva three minutes before take-off last night.

He his wife, Carolina Malay, were the last passengers to climb on board.

Ocampo was all ready to leave for a week-long trip for a session of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in Geneva but was held at the Bureau of Immigration at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport on a hold departure order.

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez had issued the order,, which Immigration received last Thursday, citing the rebellion case against Ocampo stemming from the foiled coup attempt last February.

Ocampo was held at the Naia despite his protestations that a court order issued by Regional Trial Court (RTC) Judge Reinto Quilala last June 20 allowed him to travel to Geneva and thereafter to Belgium for a meeting of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, and frenzied telephone calls to Gonzalez and Immigration Commissioner Alipio Fernandez.

It took a call to Presidential Chief of Staff Michael Defensor before Ocampo was finally allowed to leave.

“We called up Mike Defensor and told him that we will be forced to call the UN and the IPU about the violation of the human rights of Satur Ocampo,” Neri Colmenares, Ocampo’s lawyer, said.

He said that Ocampo also spoke with Gonzalez on a mobile phone, assuring him he would return to the country.

Colmenares said that Gonzalez told Ocampo not to speak against the Philippines while in Geneva.

“Ka Satur told him that he would never speak against the country but speaking against the government if there are violations is another matter,” Colmenares said.

Gonzalez also asked Ocampo to issue a statement to the BI that he would return to the country on June 30, the lawyer said, adding that Ocampo would no longer go to Brussels, Belgium.

Prior to checking in for his flight, Ocampo told reporters that Gonzalez’s issuance of a hold departure already consisted a “personal persecution.”

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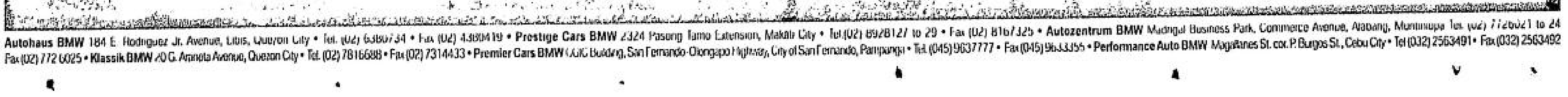

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GMA's 5-man delegation includes solons' wives

By Gil Cabacungan Jr.

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO'S DELEGATION in the one-week swing to Italy, the Vatican and Spain has been bloated to 55 members by an unusually large group of lawmakers, some of whom will even bring along their spouses.

Based on the official delegation list submitted by Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita, more than 60 percent of the delegation is made up of senators (who number two), congressmen (20), their spouses (5), governors (7) and a city mayor.

The government is expected to shoulder all the delegation's hotel and travel expenses, including pocket money for the trip. The delegation has been booked at the posh St. Regis Grand Hotel in Rome and the Ritz Hotel in Madrid.

During the trip, scheduled from June 24 to July 2, the President is expected to meet with Pope Benedict XVI, Italian President Giorgio Napolitano, King Juan Carlos I and Queen Sona of Spain and Spanish President Jose Luis Rodrigues Zapatero.

Aside from First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo, members of the First Family that are to join the trip are the President's daughter, Evangelina Lourdes (Luli), her son Diosdado (Dato) and his wife Maria Victoria Celina, and her granddaughter, Eva Victoria.

Cabinet officials in the party are Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas, Defense Secretary Avelino J. Cruz, Jr., Trade and Industry Secretary Peter Favila, Tourism Secretary Joseph Ace Durano, Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye, National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales, and Group Head for Government Mass Media Cerge Remonde.

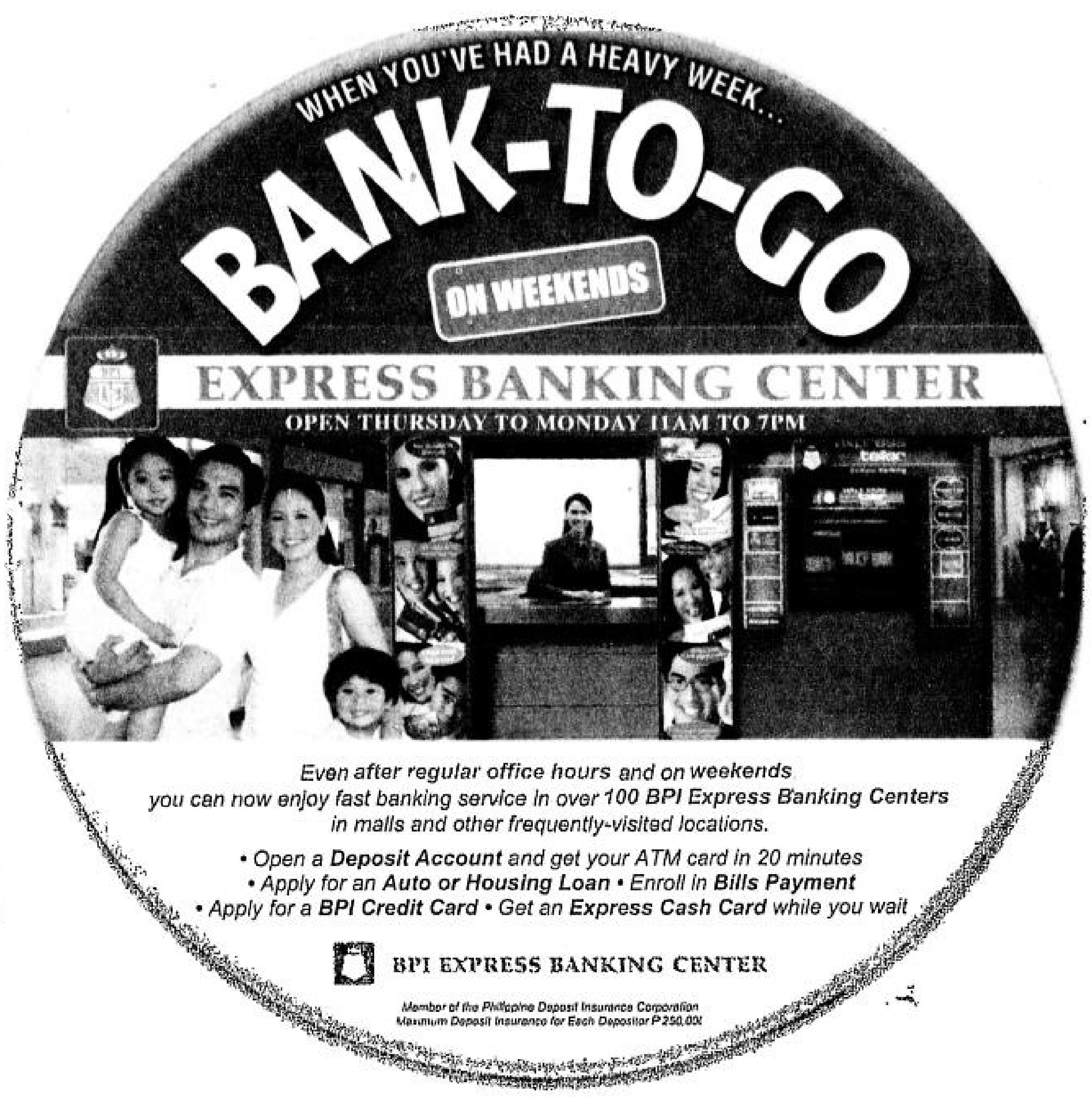
Only Romulo among the Palace honchos is bringing along his wife, Lovely Rose.

Government executives in the list are Deputy Executive Secretary Susana D Vargas, Presidential Protocol Chief Marciano Paynor Jr., National Historical Institute chair Lamberto Ocampo, Overseas Workers Welfare Administration Administrator Marianito D. Roque, and Public Works Undersecretary Florante Soriquez.

The senators on the trip are Edgardo Angara and Miriam-Defensor Santiago. Chief Justice Artemio Panganiban is also listed in the delegation, along with Philippine Ambassador to Spain Joseph D. Bernardo.

Local government officials with the team are Bohol Gov. Enrico B. Aumentado, Sarangani Gov. Miguel Rene Dominguez, Samar Gov. Ben Evardone, Agusan del Sur Gov. Adolph Edward Plaza, Camarines Sur Gov. Luis Raymund Villafuerte Jr., Bulacan Gov. Josephine dela Cruz, Sultan Kudarat Gov. Pax Mangudadatu and Manila City Mayor Lito Atienza.

The congressmen and their spouses on the trip are Isabela Rep. Rodolfo Albano, Pampanga Rep. Jesus Reynaldo Aquino, Nueva Ecija Rep. Rodolfo Antonino, Iloilo Rep. Arthur Defensor, Marikina City Rep. Del De Guzman, Zamboanga del Norte Rep. Cecilia Jalosjos-Carreon, Laguna Rep. Uliran Joaquin, Batangas Rep. Hermilando I. Mandanas, Southern Leyte Rep. Francis Nepomuceno, Rep. Herminia Ramiro, Batangas Rep. Victoria Reyes, Masbate Rep. Rizalina Seachon-Lanete, Bulacan Rep. Lorna Silverio, Quezon Rep. Danny Suarez, Quezon City Rep. Mary Ann Susano, North Cotabato Rep. Emmylou Talino Santos, Leyte Rep. Eduardo Veloso, Occidental Mindoro Rep. Amelita Villarosa, Bukidnon Rep. Juan Miguel Zubiri, Rosa Marina Antonio, Regina Nepomuceno, Rodrigo Reyes, Joshur Judd Lanete, and Audrey Zubiri.



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UN HABITAT FORUM

Noli showcases NorthRail project

By Cynthia D. Balana

DE CASTRO

VICE PRESIDENT NOLI DE CASTRO yesterday described the North Rail resettlement project as "one of the biggest development-triggered movement of families in recent Philippine history" and "a test of development in a democracy."

Speaking at the World Urban Forum 3 organized by the UN Habitat on the topic, "Implementing Millennium Development Goal (MDG) Target 7/11 – Cities Without Slums Indicator in Asian Countries" in Vancouver, Canada, De Castro lauded the relocation component of the ongoing rail linkage project and called it a success.

De Castro, who chairs the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC), said the government was determined to make the resettlement program work despite shortcomings in the housing sector and criticism from various groups.

He said that there was more at stake in the project than just the putting up of a railroad system or new housing communities.

"We want to prove that development can be pursued within the democratic system established by people power. We want to show that people power... is just as potent in building communities and improving the lives of the masses," he said.

De Castro said the NorthRail resettlement project was a test case for the government's commitment to the good urban governance campaign which it launched in 2000 in partnership with the UN Habitat, civil society and community-based associations.

He also called it "one of the country's contributions to the attainment of MDGs to improve the lives of slum dwellers in the world."

The Vice President said three "major themes"—incremental development, beneficiary-led formulation of the resettlement plans and policies, and collaboration at both the national and local levels—were behind the success of the relocation project.

He stressed the importance of communicating directly with affected families to understand their needs and concerns.

"I talked to them personally and listened to them—not to their leaders, not to those who profess to represent their interests, but to the affected families down there at the railroad tracks... I simply had to go to the people and be a field-worker myself," he said.

He said various policies had been crafted in consultation with the families themselves, among them the choice of resettlement sites, the manner of distributing housing materials assistance and the cost of the benefits package to be amortized by beneficiaries for 30 years.

He said that the NorthRail story was far from over and that much had to be done, particularly in building capacities at the grassroots level.

"If there is one area where external assistance would be greatly appreciated, it would be in interventions that promote cultural and social development among the beneficiary families," De Castro said.

Boy seized from classroom

COTABATO CITY—MASKED gunmen barged into an elementary school Friday and snatched an 11-year-old boy right in front of his classmates and teachers, officials said.

Parang Mayor Talib Abo identified the victim as Kurt Degracia, whose family owns several hardware stores in Barangay Landasan and Poblacion Parang, Maguindanao.

Citing reports from school authorities, Abo said three gunmen in ski masks entered the victim's classroom at Landasan Central Pilot Elementary School around 2 p.m. Friday.

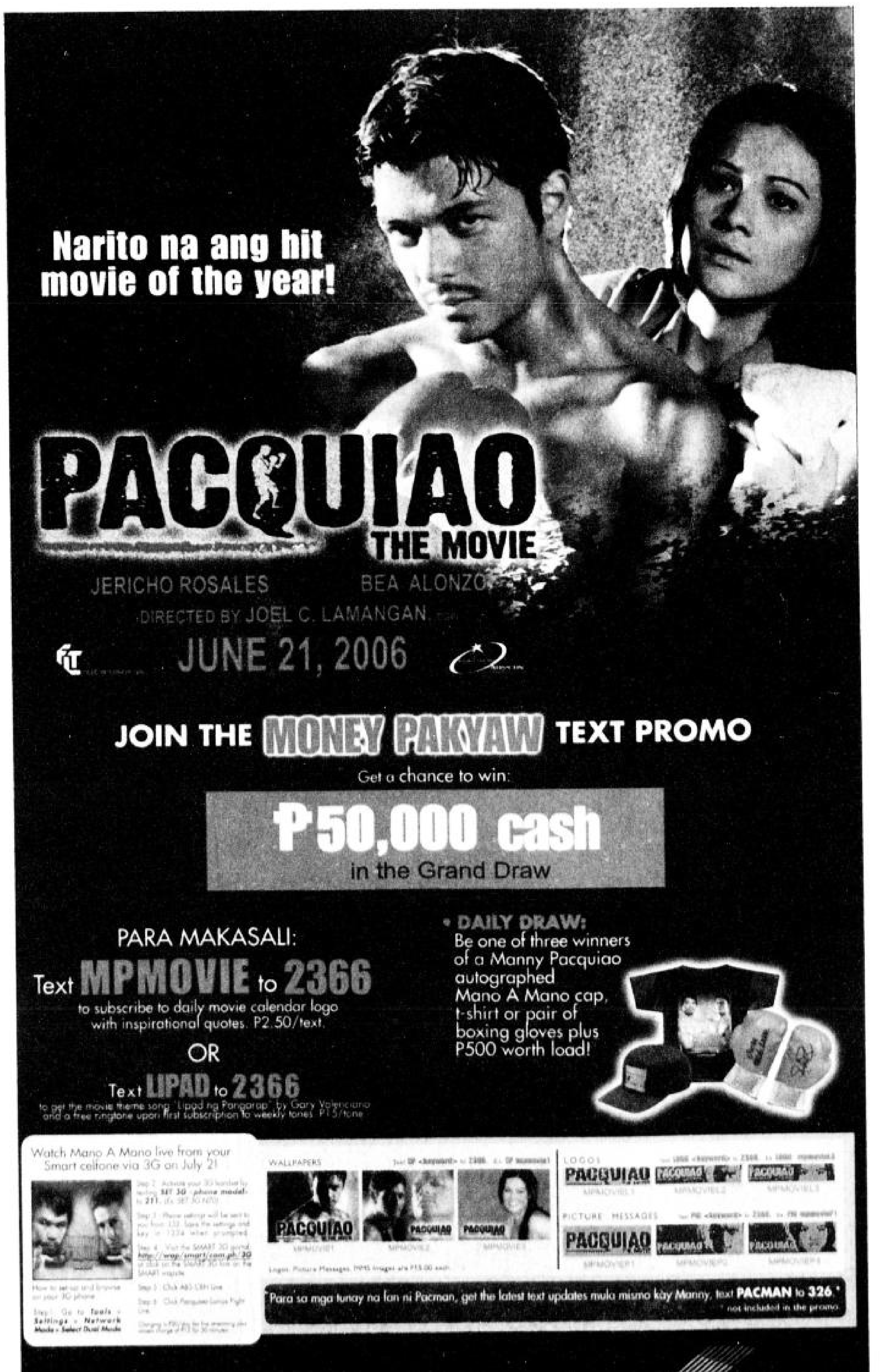
The kidnappers pointed their guns at the boy's teacher and other school personnel who rushed to the scene, Abo told the INQUIRER. The kidnappers then forced the boy into a waiting vehicle with government license plate SBC-603 and sped toward North Cotabato.

The vehicle was later found abandoned and partly burned in Barangay Manuangan, Pigcawayan, Cotabato, according to Abo.

Quoting police reports, Abo said witnesses had reported that the car's driver boarded a Weena Bus bound for this city while the two other gunmen hailed a passenger L300 van, also bound for this city, but there was no mention of the boy.

Abo said it was possible the boy was kidnapped for ransom.

Edwin Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau



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"Para sa mga tunay na fan ni Pacman, get the latest text updates mula mismo kay Manny, text PACMAN to 326."
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SMART

Now, it's Gloria vs thinking class

From page A1

Macapagal-Arroyo out of office, National Artist for Literature Bienvenido Lumbera said on Thursday.

"In general, I think the intellectuals that I know are clearly against, vocally against GMA," Lumbera said at the launching of a citizen's initiative to impeach Ms Arroyo at Club Filipino in Greenhills, San Juan.

He said many of them would work to personally convince congressmen to support the new impeachment complaint to be filed on Monday before the House of Representatives.

The 74-year-old national artist said he himself would try to convince his brother-in-law, House Majority Leader Prospero Nograles, about the need to let the impeachment process proceed.

"We usually don't talk about politics but this time, (it's going to be different)," Lumbera said.

He said that the abuses of the administration, like the killings of journalists and political activists, had roused the passions of intellectuals and set them against the Arroyo administration.

Embrace the truth

House Minority Leader Francis Escudero earlier said that the participation of private individuals and organizations in the campaign to impeach Ms Arroyo would give it an added boost in getting the required 79 votes to have the President impeached in the House.

"Mrs. Arroyo has led the way in substituting confusion for clarity, replacing faith in our people with cynicism towards their democratic demands, and demonstrating hostility rather than dedication to the rule of law," said artist Leah Navarro.

"[Ms Arroyo] stop running, and hiding, from your people ... embrace the truth," she added.

Lumbera said that while some of the public might be wary of joining political rallies against the President, this did not mean they want Ms Arroyo to stay.

"The rallies and the people attending rallies are getting fewer, but if you talk to them, you'll find out that they really want change," Lumbera said.

Not only artists

"The rallies, last year, fizzled out and failed. This is the chance to erase all that and replace it with hope," he added.

But it was not just artists and intellectuals who were active in the campaign to impeach the President.

Armando Albarillo, one of the lead complainants in the impeachment case to be filed, blames the Arroyo administration for the political killing of both his parents in Oriental Mindoro.

"We who are victims of crimes and inhumanity have suffered greatly. We're sure that the impeachment complaint will be filed but we don't know if we'll get the votes," Albarillo said.

"But as [part of] organizations that are being killed by the Arroyo administration, we will not stop even if more of us die tomorrow until the dictator Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo is removed from power," he added.

Add to country's woes

A second impeachment case against the President would only add to the country's miseries, said Lipa Archbishop Ramon Arguelles, a known critic of Ms Arroyo at the height of last year's "Hello Garci" controversy.

Those seeking to unseat Ms Arroyo were probably driven by their political ambition to take over, Arguelles said.

"All this will just add to the woes of the country," he told reporters in Filipino. "Corruption will just change hands."

Arguelles noted that the move to oust Ms Arroyo for allegedly stealing votes in the 2004 elections was met with apathy.

"Many people are saying that there are many things that have to be corrected in the [Arroyo] government. But how come a great majority of the people are apathetic?" he said.

While the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) had earlier encouraged the faithful to settle the political crisis through constitutional means, Arguelles said he and his fellow bishops were not endorsing impeachment.

"Constitutional means can be used unconstitutionally when used to serve the interest of some people who would like to take over without thinking of the good of the majority," he said. "They are just trying to get into power."

Asked what the political opposition should do, the prelate advised enemies of Ms Arroyo to go beyond simply trying to "topple the government."

"You know, people power is very good," Arguelles said, referring to the two peaceful revolts that unseated strongman Ferdinand E. Marcos in 1986 and Joseph Estrada in 2001. "But if it is manipulated, it's no longer people power."

He also cautioned against the Malacañang-backed people's initiative seeking to change the 1987 Constitution.

Critics said the initiative was meant to allow Ms Arroyo to finish her term in 2010 while maintaining political clout in the planned parliamentary system of government.

"The people's initiative should be the initiative of the people and not of some people who have a hidden agenda," Arguelles said.

Absence of heart

NOW IT CAN BE TOLD.

Former Solicitor General Alfredo Benipayo could have bungled his defense before the Supreme Court of Executive Order No. 464, which barred all Cabinet officials, government executives and uniformed officers from appearing in congressional hearings without the President's consent, Presidential Proclamation No. 1017, which placed the country in a state of emergency, and the Calibrated Pre-emptive Response policy on street protestors.

"His heart wasn't in it," said Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez, describing Benipayo as "the solicitor general who lost our battles."

Gonzalez said it might have been hard for Benipayo to go against his conscience and conviction, confirming suspicions that Benipayo was eased out of government for allegedly failing to make a good defense on controversial issues EO 464, PP 1017 and the CPR policy before the Supreme Court.

"When he was defending our position ... that must have been a very haphazard defense because his heart was not in it," Gonzalez said of Benipayo's argument for the three measures.

Consequently, the Supreme Court declared PP 1017 as unconstitutional.It also qualified EO 464, allowing government officials to attend congressional inquiries without the President's permission, but not so when for the Senate question hour. On the CPR policy, the high tribunal ruled: no permit, no rally.

Gonzalez said that Benipayo was "better out of government" because "now he was free to express his true sentiments."

The fact that "we changed him was the right thing to do," Gonzalez added. Benipayo was "defending [the issues] but not with his full enthusiasm."

Benipayo resigned in March at the height of defending the three measures in the high court, saying he wanted to return to private practice. He has since joined the anti-Charter change group, One Voice.

Nothing but good wishes from GMA foes

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

THIS TIME, NOTHING BUT WELL-WISHES and prayers from her political foes. One even thought of sending her flowers, too.

As President Macapagal-Arroyo lay in a hospital bed, Senate leaders and opposition senators—who have all questioned the legitimacy of her government and demanded her resignation—yesterday set aside politics and wished her speedy recovery from the viral infection that downed her.

Senate President Franklin Drilon said he had been busy hosting an international gathering of Liberals and Democrats from Asia, Europe and North America when he heard of Ms Arroyo's condition on Thursday night.

"Certainly all of us are concerned about her health and we wish her well," Drilon said in a phone interview.

Opposition Sen. Panfilo "Ping" Lacson said he remembered the case of Ms Arroyo's presidential rivals, Raul Roco and Fernando Poe Jr., who died of prostate cancer and massive stroke, respectively, in the same hospital.

"The case of Roco and FPJ occurred to me and I prayed that *huwag namang umabot sa ganoon* (it won't happen to her). My first reaction was I prayed that *huwag naman po sana* (don't let it happen, please). Not this way," Lacson said.

The sin, not the sinner

While he wants Ms Arroyo out of Malacañang, Lacson said that being a Christian got the better of him.

"I remember what our parish priest in Imus said a long time ago: Hate the sin, not the sinner. So this is beyond politics. We should all pray for her," said Lacson, who also ran unsuccessfully against Ms Arroyo in the 2004 election and who had been a fierce critic of her and her husband, Jose Miguel.

Senate Majority Leader Francis Pangilinan said his initial reaction was that the past several months had been "extremely stressful" for Ms Arroyo and this had probably taken a toll on her health.

"Despite our political differences, I pray for her speedy recovery," Pangilinan said.

Pangilinan said Ms Arroyo's hospitalization was "mentioned in passing" during the 30-nation international conference and one of the foreign parliamentarians asked about it.

Probably overworked

"I said it was probably fatigue from all the work (she has been doing)," Pangilinan said.

Sen. Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada said he also prayed for Ms Arroyo and monitored the news about her even if he was in Baguio City.

"I wish her well and I hope she is discharged from the hospital soon so she can get back to work," said the opposition senator, who blames Ms Arroyo for the ousting of his father, detained former President Joseph Estrada.

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. was in Los Angeles, California, when he heard the news. "I pray she overcomes it," he said.

Irresistible wish

Pimentel could not resist reiterating his wish for Ms Arroyo to disappear from the political scene: "But I think she's probably overworked. She can resign with a clear conscience and claim 'ill-health'."

Lacson said the circumstances of Ms Arroyo's hospitalization were initially mysterious, but said there should be no more speculation after her doctors said it was just a case of acute infectious diarrhea.

Undelivered flowers

"We have no choice but to believe the doctors. They will probably not lie because once they issue a medical bulletin, they are bound by medical ethics," Lacson said.

Jinggoy Estrada said he even thought of sending Ms Arroyo a bouquet of flowers. "*Kaya lang baka hindi tanggapin* (But it might not be accepted)," he quipped.

Asked if he would send flowers, Lacson laughed and said: "Ah, we will not go too far."

Step-sis tells how fun trip became a nightmare

From page A1

...Franco said she, Nicole and another 12-year-old sister were invited for a vacation in Subic on Oct. 30 by a family friend, US Navy Petty Officer Christopher Mills and another US soldier, Carlos Ocasio.

The sisters had come to know the servicemen who were regulars in their family "cantina" in the Armed Forces Southern Command (Southcom) base in Zamboanga City.

Treated like sons

Franco said the two US soldiers got to know her stepmother, Nicole's mother, as they came to the canteen at least four times a month since first arriving in Zamboanga in July 2005.

"She treated them as her own sons and as family friends and she trusted them," said Franco, explaining why her stepmother allowed them to accept a second invitation from the Americans.

Testifying on direct examination by Ursua, Franco said the sisters had begged off a first invitation from the soldiers in September as they were busy helping out in the canteen. It was Nicole who managed the canteen.

The arrangement was for the sisters to pay for their fare to Subic while the soldiers would take care of accommodations.

On Oct. 30, the three sisters flew to Manila from Zamboanga for the first leg of their Subic getaway. Their two Manila-based brothers then drove them to Olongapo City, where Ocasio had arranged for them to be billeted at the Legenda Hotel.

Not to set bad example

The soldier changed his mind, however, and brought the five siblings to the Grand Leisure Hotel instead. Asked why, Franco said "because Ocasio did not want to set a bad example for [my 12-year-old sister] because he said there were many Americans roaming around naked" at the Legenda where the two soldiers were billeted.

On Nov. 1, Mills who was with another soldier Franco knew only as Garcia took the sisters to the casino where they played for about an hour. At around 8:30 p.m., they went to the Neptune Club.

There Franco said she and Nicole tasted drinks they had not heard of before: vodka sprite, B52 and Singapore sling.

She said that every time she and Nicole finished a drink, they felt dizzy.

"[Nicole] drank half a pitcher of Bullfrog. She drank it straight because she was being cheered by three Americans surrounding her," said Franco.

3rd dance with Smith

She testified that Nicole was at the dance floor three times: first with an American, the second time with her and Mills, and the third time with the same American she had danced with the first time whom she later identified in court as Smith, the accused.

The witness recalled, almost minute by minute, her last images of Nicole after she had her third dance with Smith.

"She was not dancing lewdly," she replied when Ursua asked her to describe Nicole's behavior.

The lawyer brought it up apparently to counter various sworn statements earlier entered into the record by the defense lawyers claiming that Nicole was seen "dirty dancing" with an American that night.

Twice, Nicole slipped in and out of Franco's sight from where the latter sat. Each time Nicole reappeared and passed by her sister without saying a word. She was "*pasuray-suray*" (weaving about)," Franco said.

Finally, when she was about to lose Nicole again, "I called out to her but she just went ahead. Then I stood up and ran after her."

Franco said she had to grab Nicole by her shoulders just to make her "face me." She then told her they must return to their hotel because Mills seemed to have left them.

(In a previous hearing, Mills said he left the bar for about 30 to 45 minutes to help his buddy, Garcia, sort out a problem with a shore patrol officer.)

Letting go of hand

"She said nothing. I held her hand, and we started walking out of the Neptune Club," Franco added.

They had already gone past Neptune's pathway when "I let go of her hand." Franco said she started walking faster and "I was thinking she was following me."

Asked why she went a few steps ahead, Franco gave one of her most emotionally charged replies: "Because I thought if I would walk faster, she would catch up. That's how we've been as sisters."

Franco then encountered Mills and Garcia at the corner of Waterfront and Taft Roads. That's when she lost sight of Nicole. She and Mills decided to return to the bar, thinking Nicole might have returned.

It was the beginning of a long search. They again surveyed the Neptune's dance floor, ladies' toilet, and karaoke rooms, then looked for Nicole in two other bars.

Searching

Upon Mills' advice, an already worried Franco returned to her hotel. Restless, she had her 12-year-old sister accompany her back to Neptune for another search.

Before reaching the bar, she got a call from Mills saying the bar's security guard had seen a Filipino being "carried to a van."

At that point, she said she was afraid that "something bad" had happened."

Another round of search in the two other bars ensued, before Franco and her adolescent sister decided to return to the hotel.

Franco had slept briefly when the phone rang at around 2 a.m. It was the hotel manager asking her to go down.

She found Nicole, seated just outside the lobby, with an SBMA policeman.

"I cried in front of her, asking her where she'd been. She was in a state of shock," a weeping Franco said.

At this point, the judge asked if she could still go on. It was not clear if she answered, but Pozon then announced the adjournment, with the defense counsels posing no objection.

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Old budget gives GMA blank check–Drilon

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

SENATE PRESIDENT FRANKLIN Drilon has conceded that the failure of Congress to approve the 2006 national budget has given President Macapagal-Arroyo a blank check to spend public money according to her wishes.

Drilon was reacting to news reports that the President can realign at least P48 billion worth of pork barrel funds under the reenacted P907.56 billion due to Congress' failure to approve the P1.05 trillion national budget for this year.

"This is precisely the difficulty of having a reenacted budget. There is so much discretion given to the President," Drilon said.

Drilon said Congress, which supposedly had the "power over the purse" under the Constitution, can only hope that the Commission on Audit will make sure the realigned funds are properly spent.

"We are already in the middle of the year. By constitutional mandate, the President is supposed to submit the budget for 2007 between July 24 and Aug. 24. We start working on that when we come back. There is no more sense in having the budget for 2006. We have only five months to go for the year," Drilon said.

The committee deliberations ended in a deadlock when Congress adjourned on June 8.

Senate Majority Leader Francis Pangilinan said he was still hoping Malacañang and the Senate could reach a middle ground in the budget stalemate.

The Senate cut the Malacañang budget approved by the House by P64 billion, mostly funds deemed as pork barrel for the President. Ms Arroyo took an all-or-nothing stance, forcing a deadlock.

"We're still hoping the executive department will have a change of heart so that we can find a middle ground. The Senate has always been open to the realignment of some of the budget cuts. But if the Palace will stick to its position—take it or leave it—we cannot have a breakthrough," Pangilinan said.

Pangilinan said the Senate would exercise its oversight functions to monitor the disbursement of the funds that the President realigned to projects other than that provided for under the budget act.

Tarlac Rep. Jesli Lapus, chair of the House committee on ways and means, expressed confidence in Ms Arroyo disbursement of funds.

"The President has already shown sound discretion in allotting enough funds for government's priorities like counter-insurgency and anti-graft and corruption drives," he said. These programs had been hobbled by lack of funds, he said.

Lapus expressed confidence that the President could manage properly a reenacted budget that reportedly would give her full discretion on how to spend P21 billion in non-repeating projects and P27.7 billion in interest savings from the 2005 budget.

"The President knows government would be shortchanging our people if the funds which we have raised from new taxes and prudent fund management of the Department of Budget and Management will not be used this year for basic services such as health, education, food security and infrastructure," said Lapus.

House posts P190-M savings

By Philip C. Tubeza

FOLLOWING AUSTERITY AND cost-cutting measures, the House of Representatives posted an unprecedented P190 million in savings last year, Speaker Jose de Venecia said yesterday.

De Venecia said the savings came after President Macapagal-Arroyo urged all government agencies to implement austerity measures due to the huge budget deficit.

He added that this was the second time that the House successfully reduced costs "to set an example for other government agencies" and the amount was also higher than the P66 million savings it posted in 2004.

"This amount is significant because no other government agency has performed as prudently. This is our collective response to the President's repeated appeals for fiscal discipline," de Venecia said.

He added that the House realized the savings "through a program of austerity, cost-cutting and disciplined financial management."

During a meeting in Malacañang on Thursday, the President warmly congratulated De Venecia and the entire House and its leadership for the savings.

House computerization

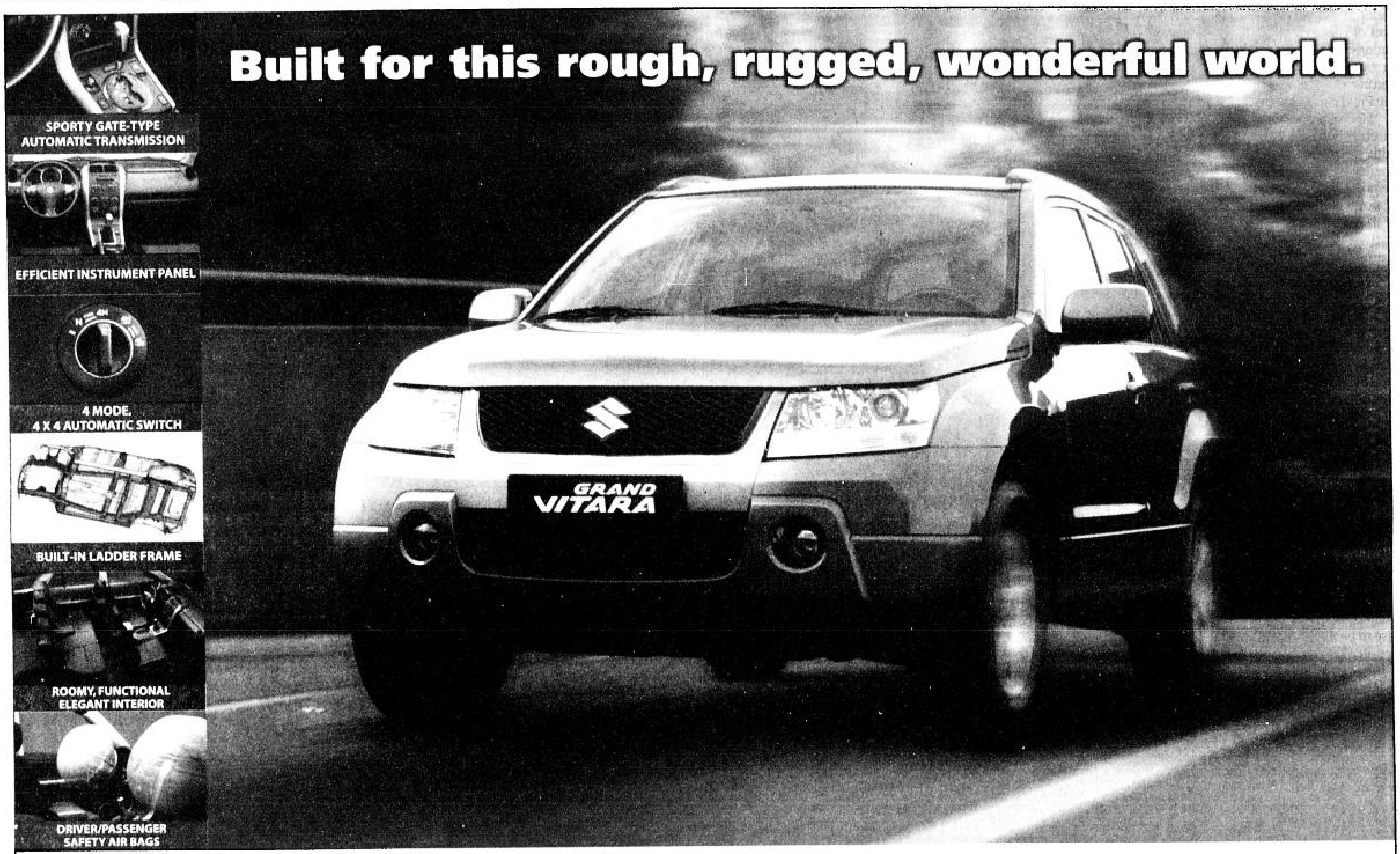
De Venecia was accompanied by Rep. Robert Ace Barbers, chair of the House committee on appropriations; Deputy Minority Leader Agapito "Butz" Aquino, and Secretary General Roberto Nazareno.

De Venecia told Ms Arroyo the House would allocate P100 million of the savings for the construction of a new building in the Batasan Complex to accommodate the expanded membership of the lower chamber and their support staff.

He said the rest of the savings would be used to finance the full computerization of House operations under his overall program to modernize the legislature and bring it to the digital age.

De Venecia credited former Budget Secretary Romulo Neri, now director-general for economic planning, and former House Appropriations Committee Chair Rolando Andaya Jr., now Budget Secretary, with the House's prudent spending.

He said the House computerization program as planned would cover all House members and include a digital link to the plenary hall and their congressional districts.



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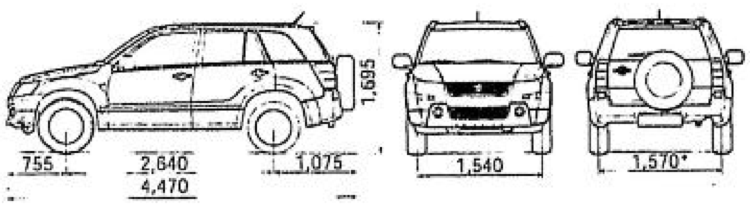

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GMA didn't have a bite at Osteria 88

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO didn't touch her food in the tony Franco-Italian restaurant owned by a nephew of Interior and Local Government Secretary Ronaldo Puno where she was taken ill Thursday night.

Osteria 88 executive chef Rae Pedrosa said he personally served the President's food and she did not touch it—not the pan seared goose liver nor the caesar's salad. (Presidential Chief of Staff Michael Defensor claimed the President had salad at the restaurant before she complained of stomach pains).

55 party guests

"The President did not partake of any food at all at the restaurant as she was already not feeling well per her close-in personnel. It is just incidental that her last social for the day was for the First Gentleman's birthday," Pedrosa said.

There were 55 members in the President's party, which is the full seating capacity of the restaurant, Pedrosa said. (The First Gentleman's pre-birthday bash caused heavy traffic along Tomas Morato as police blocked off the area.)

It was the first time for the President to visit the restaurant but First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo had been in the fine-dining restaurant on four other occasions.

No oysters

"We did not take any chance with the safety and handling of the various cooked entrees such as salmon steak and osso buco tender beef. Contrary to reports, there were no raw food or oysters served."

Pedrosa argued that if the food was "rejectable," its ill effects would not have been immediate but would have taken four to six hours. "Other guests should have developed upset stomachs (just like the President) at the same time," said Pedrosa who noted that the President has security food tasters who should have tried the food before they were served.

Pedrosa said Osteria 88 was owned by Puno Enterpriser of Dondi Puno who last year took control of the Osteria Italia restaurant ran by actress Ara Mina for three years.

In December 2005, the restaurant opened as a members-only resto with 88 "gourmet members" forking out P120,000 (consumable for six months) for the privilege to dig into the restaurant's prime continental cuisine from Black Angus Salpicao to Wagyu beef rib eye to baked Norwegian salmon fillet.

Food and privacy

"Our members come here for the food and the privacy," said Pedrosa who noted that a typical meal in Osteria 88 would cost between P800 and P1,000 per person. "We're one of the best in fine dining. If we're a hotel, we'd be rated five-star luxury."

Pedrosa said the management decided to open the restaurant to nonmembers this month when some members complained of the hassle of going to the restaurant whenever their relatives and friends wanted to eat there.

Pedrosa said it was too early to tell whether the bad publicity would impact negatively on the restaurant. "I sure hope not because we really pride ourselves in our food quality and service," Pedrosa said.

FINALLY FORCED TO REST, President Arroyo looks like she can hardly wait to jump out of bed and get cracking on her presidential duties. MALACAÑANG PHOTO

GMA in charge: 'I'm fine'; leaves hospital today

From page A1

not even consider it.

The doctors also said "extreme stress" had lowered Ms Arroyo's resistance and made her vulnerable to infections.

"I think with all the stress she's currently having, [with her] duties and responsibilities ... there is some point in time where [there would be] a lower resistance," said Dr. Juliet-Gopez Cervantes, a gastroenterologist. "[That's] probably the reason why the viral infection has developed."

Health Secretary Francisco Duque said that, as President, Ms Arroyo "has to attend to many things and this could be one reason why her resistance has gone down and made her vulnerable to mild infectious diseases," Duque told reporters.

Palace officials said Ms Arroyo's trip to Italy—where she will have an audience at the Vatican with Pope Benedict XVI—and then to Spain would still proceed, after doctors gave the green light for her to travel.

But instead of leaving tonight for Europe, as scheduled, she will leave on Sunday at 10 a.m., officials said. She will return home on July 2.

In a floral hospital gown and with a laptop in front of her, Ms Arroyo told government television and radio reporters who were allowed to enter her fourth-floor Room 4012 suite that she was "feeling fine."

Light work

She said she was just doing "light work," when asked why her laptop was on her hospital bed.

Ms Arroyo did not talk about her medical condition, saying it would be her doctors who would speak about it.

Duque said Ms Arroyo started having loose bowel movements on Thursday morning.

In an earlier medical bulletin, Cervantes and Dr. Joven Cuanang, St. Luke's medical director, said the President suffered a "bout of diarrhea and vomiting, accompanied by abdominal pain" when she was brought to the hospital.

MEDICAL BULLETIN: Reassuring announcements from left, St. Luke's Medical Director Dr. Joven Cuanang, gastroenterologist Dr. Juliet Gopez-Cervantes and Health Secretary Francisco Duque. LYN RILLON

IN THIS CORNER: Manny Pacquiao takes a break from his training for the "thrilla in Manila" to visit his favorite cheerleader. ERIK ARAZAS

Full meal

They "hydrated" the President and since Thursday night, she "has been and is already comfortable."

The doctors said Ms Arroyo had acute infectious diarrhea, "secondary to a viral infection." She had also suffered a mild dehydration.

Briefing reporters last night, Cervantes said Ms Arroyo had already taken a full meal consisting of rice, meat, soup and vegetables.

"(She) is ready to be discharged (today) at her pleasure. She also can travel anytime," the hospital medical bulletin said.

Except for intravenous fluids, Cervantes said the doctors did not give any medication to the President.

Not food poisoning

She said they were also not recommending any food restrictions but stressed that Ms Arroyo should be careful about the food she was taking.

Defensor and Duque said the possibility that the President had a case of food poisoning had not been considered following the findings of the doctors.

"We are not conducting an investigation as to what the President ate," Defensor told reporters.

"We're not considering food poisoning because the food that the President took (Thursday night) was taken by other people and they did not get sick like her," Duque said. *(See related story on Page A6.)*

Duque also said that viral infections were common these days and anyone was susceptible to them.

Back to cheerful self

"It is more of a viral infection," Cervantes said, adding that food poisoning was not considered by the doctors "considering the history (of her ailment) did not point to anything."

"She's back to her cheerful self," Duque said of the President.

Asked whether Ms Arroyo was fit to travel given her condition, Cervantes said "she can push through with her job anytime."

Cancelled activities

The viral ailment forced Ms Arroyo to cancel her activities yesterday and some of her appointments today.

The President was supposed to be in Compostella Valley and Davao City yesterday. In Davao, she was to have presided over the third meeting of the Cabinet and the Regional Development Council on the government's mega-development plans.

Budget Secretary Rolando Andaya, who visited the President, also told reporters that the Chief Executive would sign the law repealing the death penalty when she leaves the hospital today.

He said when he saw Ms Arroyo yesterday she had just finished her lunch, a meal of chicken arroz caldo.

"She was in high spirits and she was smiling," Defensor said.

Pacman comes

She also received many calls and flowers from supporters and local officials who wished her well and for her immediate recovery, Defensor said.

He said he and Presidential Management Staff chief Arthur Yap were the ones taking the calls and queries about Ms Arroyo's condition.

Among the first visitors in the hospital were Candaba Mayor Gerry Pelayo and former Caloocan City Mayor Rey Malonzo.

Yesterday's visitors also included boxing idol Manny Pacquiao.

The First Family, including First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo, was also with the President but left early in the morning yesterday.

The President's first born, Pampanga Rep. Mikey Arroyo, said the family appreciated those who had wished his mother well and prayed for her.

"I don't think the situation is a cause (for worry)," the younger Arroyo said.

Infection blamed on killer work schedule

From page A1

In the first year of the Arroyo presidency, then National Anti-Poverty Commission chief Ging Deles, who has since resigned from the Cabinet, described how it was to travel with the President: "One thing we have all learned when travelling with the President is that when she does stop to have a meal, you better take the nearest seat available and start eating, because after only a few mouthfuls, she will stand up and be ready to go."

Heavy workweek

Another former Cabinet member, ex-Social Welfare Secretary Dinky Soliman, once said: "We have also learned that when there is food available, you should take it, because you never know when or where your next meal will be."

The four days prior to Thursday night when she was taken to the hospital were typical of Ms Arroyo's work habits.

On Monday, she presided over a revenue command conference in Malacañang. She then held a news conference, witnessed the turnover of handguns purchased for the Philippine National Police and congratulated the police team that rescued a kidnap victim in Caloocan City..She ended her day by attending the oath-taking of the Malacañang Press Corps.

She started her day on Tuesday very early by leading the nationwide earthquake drill held at a Marikina City school. She then went back to the Palace to preside over two meetings with her Cabinet and key economic advisers.

Birthday bash, jobs fair

On Wednesday, Ms Arroyo went to Vigan City to attend not only the birthday bash of Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson but also to inaugurate a new police station. In Malacañang, she attended the Gawad Saka awards as well as the awarding ceremony for the best peace and order councils in the country.

Last Thursday, Ms Arroyo was in Camp Aguinaldo to attend a jobs fair. She also presided over the oath-taking ceremonies for new Labor Secretary Arturo Brion and new Development Bank of the Philippines president Patricia Sto. Tomas.

Afterward, she sent off three Army battalions to rebel areas and then went to the Armed Forces Medical Center to cheer up wounded soldiers.

Love for food

She ended the day by meeting foreign diplomats making farewell calls, after which she had that fateful dinner with her husband and some Cabinet members. Soon after the dinner, she fell ill.

Her Cabinet and security officials noticed how pale she looked and strongly advised her to seek medical attention immediately.

"If you look at her history, two executive secretaries had a heart operation (former Defense Secretary Renato de Villa and Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo) and even her former Chief of Staff (and now Ambassador to Greece) Rigoberto Tiglao," Defensor said.

He said even Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita had been hospitalized.

Defensor said that Ms Arroyo had a gruelling schedule this week because she was leaving for Europe.

Standing up to GMA

"Everyone was rushing her to meet and talk (with these people) and to do this and that," Defensor said, adding that Ms Arroyo had a tendency to squeeze in as many appointments she could for the day.

"When she sees an opening (in her schedule), she would immediately ask for another appointment to be set up," said Defensor.

For the past three months, he said those in charge of her appointments had been trying to rationalize the Presidents' work schedule.

"We all agreed to stand up to the President when she insists (on more appointments) but the past weeks we were overruled," he said.

Defensor said he himself would also sometimes feel the dumps.

Besides being overworked, Secretary Gonzalez also noted what he called Ms Arroyo's "hearty appetite."

"In all instances that I sat beside her, the President has always taken the food served to her with gusto. She is not picky with food and she has a bigger appetite than me."

Calls at dawn

His advice to her boss? Sleep more.

"I think she does not sleep that much. She often calls us at early dawn because she wants to tell us whatever comes up on her mind before she forgets it," Gonzalez said.

But Palace media consultant Reli German is skeptical about whether her hospital confinement would make Ms Arroyo change her ways.

"I doubt if the President will slow down. She has been a hands-on, early-morning-to-midnight type of executive for the longest time," said German, who also attributed the President's health breakdown to "concerns on the affairs of the state that are probably beginning to wear her down."

MOVING DAY. Some 300 soldiers of the 2nd Marine Battalion led by Lt. Col. Achilles Segumalian prepare to sail off to Tawi-Tawi to replace the 11th Marine Battalion who will be reassigned to Sulu. The sendoff was part of yesterday's 108th anniversary celebration of the Navy. Lower photo shows a Marine official showing off a 50-caliber sniper rifle also as part of the celebration.

REM ZAMORA

Marine colonel in Feb. standoff sent to Tawi-Tawi

A MARINE COLONEL who was involved in the stand-off at the Philippine Marines' Fort Bonifacio headquarters last February was shipped off to Tawi-Tawi yesterday.

Lt. Col. Achilles Segumalian, chief of the 2nd Marine Battalion, did not give credence to suggestions that he was being sent to remote Tawi-Tawi as a punishment for publicly questioning the conduct of the May 2004 elections in the Fort Bonifacio incident.

"No, I don't think so," Segumalian said in an interview during the send-off ceremonies yesterday for the 2nd Marine Battalion at the Philippine Navy headquarters on Roxas Blvd.

Navy chief Vice Admiral Mateo Mayuga said the deployment of the 2nd Marine Battalion marked the official launching of the Fleet Marine Team Tandem, which is the Philippine Navy's contribution to the internal security and counter-terrorism operations of the Armed Forces.

The send-off of the 2nd Marine Battalion was a highlight of the 108th anniversary of the Philippine Navy yesterday.

Mayuga said Segumalian was not under investigation for his role in the stand-off in which Marine Col. Ariel Querubin called for a people power uprising in protest at the relief of Maj. Gen. Renato Miranda as Marine Commandant.

Mayuga said no such stand-off happened on Feb. 26.

"In our definition, there was no such stand-off," he said.

Mayuga said that some officers, including Segumalian and himself, had undergone "a change of personality."

"If you talk to Segumalian now, you will notice that it was not the same Segumalian that you saw on that day. Even I myself became a different personality," Mayuga said in Filipino.

But only last week, Col. Orlando de Leon, chief of staff of the Philippine Marines, resigned his post, expressing his disgust at the allegedly heavily politicized Armed Forces officers corps.

During the February incident, De Leon and Segumalian reportedly expressed support for Querubin, who is now under house arrest for allegedly joining the plot to call for withdrawal of support from President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Segumalian's battalion will replace the 11th Marine Battalion which will undergo retraining before being shipped back to Jolo.

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SIX PEOPLE DIED HERE. A five-vehicle convoy of Maguindanao Gov. Andal Ampatuan was hit by a bomb hidden in a parked vehicle and detonated as soon as the governor's motorcade was passing by the new public market in Shariff Aguak. REUTERS

Bomb blasts Maguindanao governor convoy; 6 killed

From page A1

"The explosive was an improvised device. It was fitted with a timer," Del Prado said.

Norie Unas, Maguindanao provincial administrator, told the INQUIRER that Ampatuan was unhurt and was resting as of press time. "From all indications, the governor was the target," Unas said.

Unas declined to say who could be behind the latest attack on the governor but other sources within Ampatuan's circle said his enemies within the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) were the most likely suspects.

MILF denial

But Eid Kabalu, MILF spokesperson, denied they were responsible for the blast.

"I can honestly say that we have nothing to do with the latest attempt on the life of the governor," he said.

Kabalu also offered MILF's help to fast track the investigation. "We are ready to help if they need our help for the speedy arrest of the perpetrators once they are identified," he said.

"We're cooperating with the government to determine which group was behind the attack," said Von al-Haj, head of the MILF ceasefire panel, adding the incident was isolated and would not affect peace talks.

Gov. Zaldy Ampatuan of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) said the bomb attack against his father was a cowardly act and was aimed at sowing terror.

"It was aimed at destroying our efforts toward peace and development. But the suspects clearly failed," he said.

Targets of assassins

Andal Ampatuan Jr., another son of the governor, blamed "terrorists" for the attempt on his father's life. He did not elaborate.

AMPATUAN: Victim 10 times over

The Ampatuans have been subjected to similar attacks in the past.

In December 2002, Mayor Saudi Ampatuan of Datu Piang town, a son of the Maguindanao governor, was killed when an improvised explosive device went off as he was walking back to his house.

A year earlier, Ampatuan survived an assassination attempt when assailants opened fire on his convoy. That same year, he survived another ambush.

Police officials have not ruled out terrorism and personal vendetta as motives for the latest attack on Ampatuan.

"We are looking at many angles. It could be terrorism, it could also be grudges, it could also be politics," said Sr. Supt. Akmad Mamalinta, director of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

"It wasn't an ambush. The bomb was planted; it was intended (to explode there)," Mamalinta said.

Saudi Ampatuan Jr, the governor's grandson and mayor of Datu Saudi Uy Ampatuan town, said the explosion missed the governor's car which was ahead of the convoy and was about 10 meters away.

Police spokesperson Sr. Supt. Samuel Pagdilao said the national police will be sending bomb experts to Maguindanao to help identify and establish the signature of the bomb.

"Investigators should get to the bottom of this," he said.

Suspects JI

One Army officer, Col. Felipe Tabas, said there were indications the bombing was carried out by Jemaah Islamiyah, a regional network of Muslim militants linked to Osama bin Laden's al Qaida.

But the Maguindanao governor dismissed that idea and said he suspected his attackers came from another group "considered as an enemy of the state", which he did not identify.

The Ampatuan family wields a great deal of political and economic influence.

One of the governor's sons, Zaldy, was elected in August as the governor of a five-province autonomous Muslim region in the south with backing from the national government in Manila.

Three other sons are town mayors.

Ms Arroyo's perceived support for Zaldy Ampatuan angered former Muslim rebels from the Moro National Liberation Front who had held the post of governor since signing a peace deal in 1996. *With reports from Luige A. del Puerto, Reuters, AP*

2 businessmen killed in Subic rampage

By Tonette T. Orejas

HEAVILY ARMED MEN KILLED TWO businessmen in a shooting rampage yesterday evening inside an office at the Subic Bay Freeport, the first such violent incident in the industrial complex, an official said.

One other person was wounded in the attack that occurred at 6 p.m. in the office of one of the slain men, retired Gen. Jose Calimlim, senior deputy administrator for operations at the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority, told the INQUIRER.

"(Investigators are) looking at various angles, including possible business conflicts," Calimlim said by phone.

The office where the attack took place was located in the yard of Asia International Auctioneers along the Argonaut Highway, Calimlim said.

Trade in used vehicles

He identified the fatalities as Ric Tubig and Rommel Pineda. One of their companions, identified as Donald Garin, was seriously wounded, he added.

According to Calimlim, the two slain men had brokered for several freeport-based companies that traded used vehicles at the Freeport. It was not clear which companies they recently did business with, he said.

The shooting occurred inside Tubig's office, where SBMA investigators found empty shells of Armalite and M-16 rifles.

Central Luzon probers

The exact name of Tubig's office was not immediately available.

The two fatalities died shortly after they were brought to the James L. Gordon Memorial Hospital in nearby Olongapo City.

The identities of the attackers were not known at press time.

Calimlim said investigators from the Central Luzon police had been asked to assist in the investigation.

Top PNP post a toss-up between Calderon, Razon

From page A1

extended by President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Lomibao said he and Ms Arroyo have yet to discuss his retirement, although he said his "mind is set to retire on July 5."

There are, however, strong indications that the term of Lomibao, who assumed the top PNP post on March 14, 2005, may no longer be extended.

A source told the INQUIRER that Malacañang has already informed the police through a letter that the President would be available for the outgoing chief's retirement honors and change of command ceremonies on July 5.

"This is to confirm the availability of Her Excellency, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, for your retirement honors and the change of command ceremonies of the PNP...," said a letter from the Office of Presidential Appointments shown to the INQUIRER.

The Palace letter, however, did not say who would replace Lomibao.

No jockeying

Surprisingly, there has been little report of jockeying among generals for the position of Philippine National Police chief, one of the most sought-after in the government.

One ranking cop surmised that generals probably knew that the succession issue had already been decided.

By tradition, the top police post usually goes to the most senior and competent official, Lomibao told the INQUIRER. "Seniority has a great effect," he said.

By law, the President can choose Lomibao's successor from among the scores of one-star generals in the PNP.

Traditionally, however, the job has gone to a two-star or three-star general.

Asked if the job, once he leaves, is a toss-up between Razon and Calderon, Lomibao said:

"More or less ... because they still have more than one year to go," he said.

Razon, a member of PMA Class '74, is deputy chief for operations and is the third highest PNP officer. Calderon, a member of PMA Class '73, is deputy chief for administration, and ranks No. 2 in the PNP hierarchy.

Both Razon and Calderon are three-star generals.

A PNP officer, who spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the matter, noted that while Razon got his third star ahead of Calderon, the latter occupies the second highest post.

LOMIBAO: Packing for July 5 retirement

"That already laid the groundwork for Calderon's (assumption)," said the source.

"If the President makes no announcement extending Lomibao's term, and she does not announce a successor, then by operation of law Calderon will succeed him," he said.

Related to GMA?

He added that at this time of seeming uncertainty, the President's choice "boils down to trust and confidence," meaning she will pick the official whom she trusts most.

Calderon is said to be related to the President. But he has neither confirmed nor denied it.

When Calderon was promoted to Deputy Director General on April 21, Lomibao had described him as the "chief PNP in waiting."

A Camp Crame insider said that Ms Arroyo, of course, could choose anyone she wants, even less senior officers, and withhold her decision until the very last minute. She once extended the term of at least one PNP chief.

Lomibao said he has already begun packing his things at the White House, the PNP chief's official residence in Camp Crame.

No retirement talk

"No," he said when asked if Ms Arroyo already spoke to him about retirement. "The President, until the day of retirement, is still perhaps making the decision."

Asked what he would do if Ms Arroyo urged him to extend his tenure, Lomibao said: "Maybe I will consider that one. *Saka na lang kami mag-uusap* (We'll talk about it later)."

San Beda law school drops 26 top profs seeking dean's ouster

From page A1

in the meantime.'"

The controversy began last school year when San Beda's rector-president, Fr. Anscar Chupungco, approved Jara's recommendation that three fourth-year students be allowed to stay despite twice failing Torts and Damages and/or Political Law Review.

Under the school's regulations, such a failure meant automatic non-readmission unless the dean, for "justifiable reasons," reversed the ruling.

The exception resting on the dean's discretion was hardly exercised, but since it was part of the school policy, Jara should have at least consulted the professors involved, Brillantes claimed.

Adversarial

"The issue could have been settled if only the dean and the rector were open to a genuine dialogue," he said. "Why didn't they talk with the professors before allowing the students to stay."

Chupungco said dialogues had been conducted but the professors were purportedly "adversarial."

"They claim a kind of autonomy supposedly granted to them ever since—that's unacceptable," he said.

"They have the attitude of trying to run the school independent of the authority. The time has come not to tolerate this anymore."

Brillantes said hiring new professors may be unwise as they may not measure up to the effectiveness of the veterans.

"That's unfair," said Chupungco, noting that some of those who were not re-hired had been negligent in attending class and submitting grades.

"We have a new set of good professors and they have all promised to abide by the rules."

"The school's standards won't be weakened by its compassion," Delson said.

34 new profs

The 34 new faculty members, 25 of whom are San Beda alumni, include six regional trial court judges, two law school deans, and newly appointed Elections Commissioner Rene Sarmiento, according to Delson.

Delson said the administration was not completely closing the door on the 26 professors who were among the 31 petitioners in the letter demanding the resignation of the dean dated March 2.

"Perhaps, they can return when we have a new administration whose line of thinking is the same as theirs," he said. "But for Dean Jara, he wants respect while he's the dean."

In a Feb. 21 faculty meeting, purportedly the first in Jara's six years as dean, Jara explained that he had recommended in favor of the three students because they had "good grades" and met the minimum 79 QPI in their junior year, the 31 petitioners wrote in the March 2 letter, a copy of which was furnished the INQUIRER.

'Compassion'

The petitioners said they later found out that one student actually failed to meet the QPI (qualitative point index) requirement.

"With your failure to sufficiently justify your actions, we hoped that you would find in yourself the moral courage to admit a mistake," they wrote Jara. "Instead, you declared that you have no duty to explain your actions because you just exercised what you claim is your sole discretion."

Delson said the decision to keep the students was partly made out of "compassion" on the part of the Benedictine-run law school, a Catholic institution.

But he said the three students would automatically have to leave should they fail the subjects a third time.

"They were already in their fourth year and no other law school would accept them because of the required one-year residency," he said.

Last May 23, Jara issued a memorandum informing professors about the "expiration of (their) part-time semestral teaching contracts," and declaring that "all teaching positions in the College of Law are deemed vacated."

Professors like human rights lawyer Rene Saguisag complained.

"The memo sounded compatible with reprisal, a strong word, I know, against those who took a position, as principled as yours, but did not prevail," Saguisag later wrote Jara, referring to the resignation petition.

Brilliantes, who had been teaching quite sparingly since 2000, said it was never the practice at San Beda to issue such a memo, more so, to identify professors as "part time."

'Abrasive'

"Maybe the reason why previous deans and previous school administrators had avoided the term 'part-time' was because they had some decency to be somehow courteous," he wrote Jara on June 5.

Saguisag said it sounded "most abrasive" to practically refer to justices, judges, and other lawyers teaching at San Beda as "contractuals."

SC ECHEGARAY 'ERROR'

Anti-crime crusaders want Panganiban's claim probed

By Nelson F. Flores

PANGANIBAN

VOLUNTEERS AGAINST CRIME AND CORruption Chair Dante Jimenez yesterday asked the Office of the Ombudsman to investigate Chief Justice Artemio Panganiban's claim that the Supreme Court may have committed "judicial error" when it imposed the death penalty on rape convict Leo Echegaray.

In a nine-page complaint, Jimenez said the Ombudsman should conduct a swift and thorough investigation against the incumbent Supreme Court justices for purposes of impeachment and against retired SC justices and RTC judge for purposes of criminal prosecution.

Jimenez said if Panganiban cannot prove his allegation that the Supreme Court committed "judicial error" in Echegaray's case, "he should be recommended for impeachment for his unbecoming conduct, for maligning the name of the institution he represents and for causing erosion of public trust and confidence on the judiciary as a whole" pursuant to Section 4 of Republic Act 6713 (Code of Conduct and Ethical Standard for public Officials and Employees).

Court records showed that the Supreme Court affirmed on June 25, 1996 the decision of the Quezon City Regional Trial Court Branch 104 imposing the death penalty on Echegaray after finding him to be either the father or stepfather of his rape victim.

"The fact the ten-year old (Baby Echegaray) referred to the accused-appellant as "Papa" is reason enough to conclude that accused appellant is either the father or stepfather to (Baby). Thus the act of sexual assault perpetrated by the accused on his young victim has become all the more repulsive and perverse. This law has made it inevitable under the circumstances of this case that the accused-appellant face the supreme penalty of death," the Supreme Court said in its decision in affirming Echegaray's death sentence.

Almost 10 years after the ruling, Panganiban, in a speech before the Free Legal Assistance Group, said the Supreme Court might have committed "judicial error" in the death of Echegaray saying "the complaint alleged that the victim was the daughter of Echegaray. However, it was proven during the trial that he was not the father, stepfather or grandfather of the victim."

In his complaint, Jimenez said that if it were true as Chief Justice Panganiban claimed, then the QCRTC judge of Branch 104 who first decided the case and then the justices who concurred in the Supreme Court decision were guilty of Gross Inexcusable Negligence in failing to appreciate this fact and affirming the trial court's erroneous decision to impose the death penalty.

This is a clear violation of Sec. 3 of RA 3019 (Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act), Jimenez stressed.

"If the RTC judge in Echegaray's case indeed erred in imposing the death penalty, by all means, he should be disciplined accordingly by the SC for gross ignorance of the law and criminally charged. His ignorance has unjustly caused a loss of life," Jimenez argued.

Aside from Jimenez, the other complainants in this case are lawyer Jose Malvar Villegas Jr. of the Citizens Crime Watch, lawyer Ernesto Villagarcia of the Kapatiran Kontra Krimen and Dr. Be Caralde of the Bantay Bayan Foundation.

Customs chief says topping corruption list 'a good thing'

HIS AGENCY TOPPED THE OMBUDSMAN'S list of the country's most corrupt agencies but Customs Commissioner Napoleon Morales does not mind.

"That's a good thing," said Morales, reacting to a statement from Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez that the customs bureau with the Bureau of Internal Revenue were the most corrupt government agencies based on the number of graft cases filed as a result of internal lifestyle checks.

Morales said it meant the Department of Finance, which has supervisory control over the customs and internal revenue bureaus, was doing its job well.

"The way I look at it the basis of the Ombudsman's report was the lifestyle check… because that's where their data came from," he said.

Morales said Finance Secretary Margarito Teves has been conscientious in asking for the statements of assets and liabilities of customs appraisers and examiners to determine whether their assets could have been legally earned based on their income.

In 2003, Malacañang issued Executive Order 259 which allowed the DOF to create an internal affairs team to institutionalize lifestyle checks on revenue collection officers.

Called the Revenue Integrity Protection Service, Or RIPS, the team carries out investigations and files complaints against erring revenue officials.

Morales said he was not aware how other agencies checked on their personnel.

He said he himself has ordered seminars to be conducted in the DOF to teach customs employees how to fight graft.

He believes the customs bureau's performance so far shows that it has been effective in fighting corruption. He pointed out that if corruption was still rampant, the bureau would not have met its collection targets.

The BOC surpassed its collection target in the first five months of the year by about P4.5 billion.

Gutierrez said the Department of Public Works and Highways and the Department of Education followed the BOC and BIR in the list of the most corrupt agencies.

Sought for comment, Public Works Secretary Hermogenes Ebdane said he believes the department has gone down in ranking of agencies perceived to be corrupt.

Ebdane said he has instituted reforms in the department. He said he has ensured that DPWH employees would follow procedures so they would not run afoul of the law.

Leila B. Salaverria

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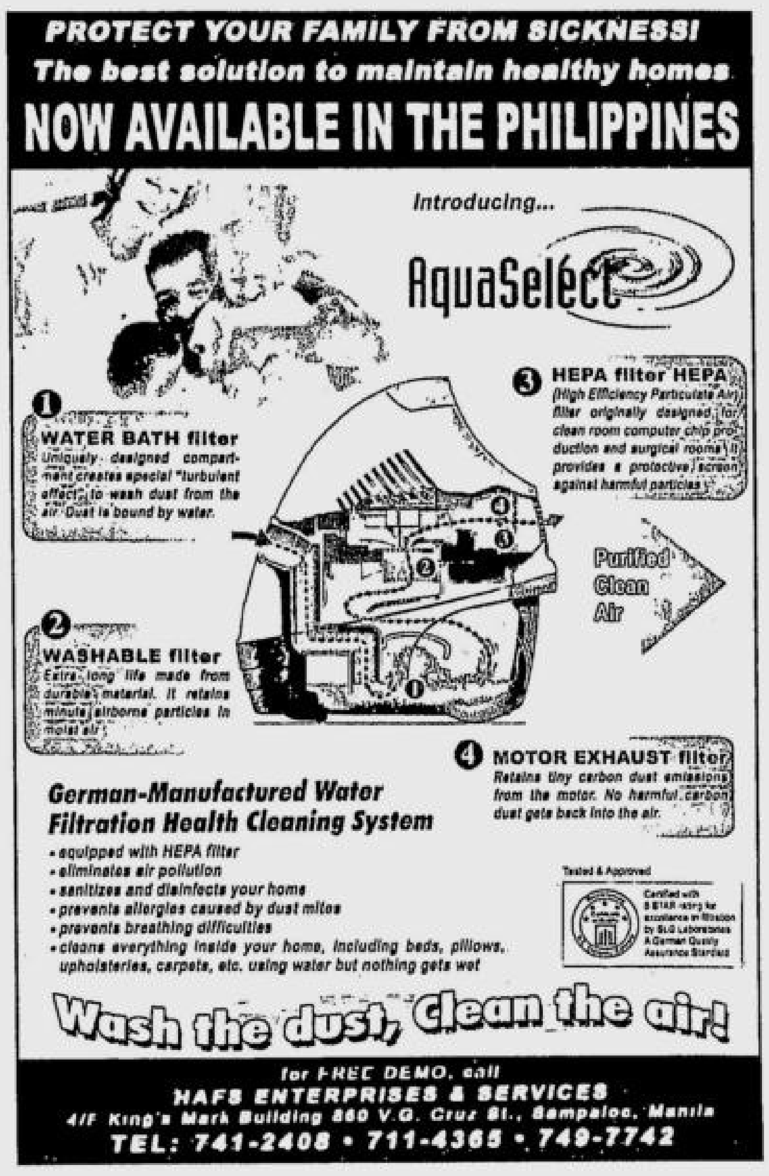
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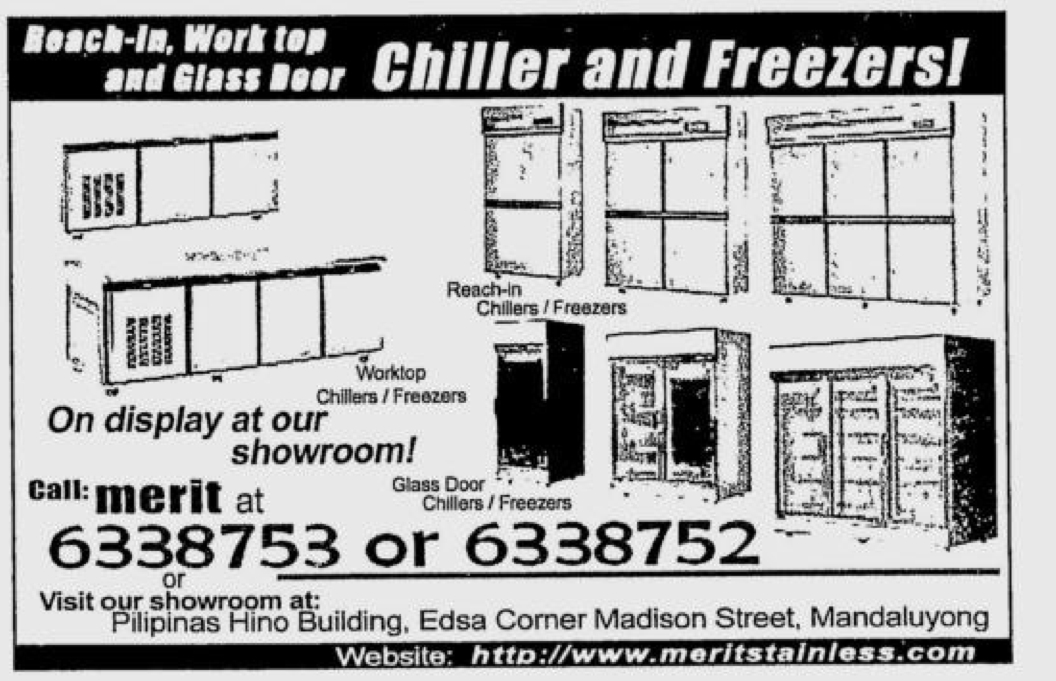
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NOTICE TO INTERESTED PARTIES

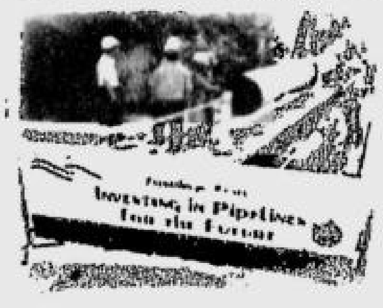
The **GSIS**, thru its **ACQUIRED ASSETS EVALUATION COMMITTEE (AAEC)**, shall be accepting offers for the following properties:

1. **Former GSIS Makati Office**
   Location: Legazpi St., Legazpi Village, Makati City
   TCT Nos. S – 19518, S – 19519, S – 19520
   Land Area: 2,429sqm.
   Improvements: 7 storey bldg. w/ roof deck
   Proposal Type: Long Term Lease
2. **GSIS Quezon City Property**
   Location: Eliptical Road, Quezon City
   TCT Nos. N-187226, N-187227
   Land Area: 29, 844 Sqm.
   Proposal Type: Long Term Lease

Interested parties may submit their proposals to the Disposition of Acquired Assets Department, 5th floor, Core C, GSIS Headquarters, Financial Center, Pasay City on or before July 14, 2006.

All proposals shall be evaluated by the AAEC and shall be subject to the final approval of the President and General Manager and/or BOARD OF TRUSTEES. GSIS reserves the right to reject any and/or all proposals.

(Sgd) RENATO R. SANTICO
Senior Vice President
Housing and Real Property Development Group


Manila Water

Upgrading of pipelines to cause temporary water interruption in portion of Makati City

Manila Water is currently undertaking an aggressive capital expenditure program to improve the distribution of water in the East Zone. In line with this, the company will upgrade large pipelines along EDSA and Ayala which will result in a temporary cutoff of water supply. The interruption will begin 10:00 p.m., Saturday, June 24, 2006, up to 8:00 a.m., Sunday, June 25. The following barangays will be affected: Bel-Air, Salcedo, Legaspi, Bgy. Poblacion, Pio Del Pilar, San Lorenzo, Palm Village and Guadalupe Viejo.

Manila Water Company advises all residents of the said areas to store enough water prior to the scheduled interruptions to avoid inconvenience.

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(PDI - June 24 2006)

Gov't gave Lafayette ₱3.5-B tax break

By Blanche S. Rivera

THE GOVERNMENT HAS FOREGONE collecting $63.88 million or P3.57 billion in taxes from Lafayette Philippines Inc. for mining gold and base metals in Albay because of the tax perks given to the Australian firm by the Philippine Economic Zone Authority (Peza).

A report prepared by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources on Lafayette's operations in Rapu-Rapu, a 5,000-ha island in Albay, showed that the national and local governments could earn $122.69 million or P6.8 billion over six years if no tax incentives had been offered to the firm.

Instead, the government stands to gain only $58.81 million or P3.29 billion during Lafayette's six-year mine life because of the tax perks enjoyed by Lafayette's subsidiary Rapu-Rapu Processing Inc. as a locator in a special economic zone.

Peza had declared 41.38 hectares of the 180-ha mine area of Lafayette a special economic zone, exempting the company from paying real estate and other taxes, and requiring it to pay only five percent of the mandated 35 percent corporate income tax.

Environment Secretary Angelo T. Reyes has asked Peza to review the economic zone status of a portion of Rapu-Rapu.

The 70-page report that found Lafayette guilty of lapses that caused two mine spills also noted that the tax incentives granted to Lafayette made the sharing scheme "grossly unfavorable to the Philippine government."

The current scheme stands at 24-74 in favor of Lafayette.

Reyes said he would push for 54-46, or the scheme representing a tax perk-free arrangement with Lafayette in favor of the government.

Lafayette Mining Ltd. said yesterday it paid a fine of P10.4 million ($195,490) imposed by the government after the two cyanide spills in its mine in October last year.

The company also said it expected to fully comply this week with 15 conditions set by the government before it can start a 30-day test run at its mine on Rapu-Rapu, which was ordered to halt operations after the spills.

"We're definitely hoping that for our own benefit we will be able to start the test run soon," said Bayani Agabin, a lawyer and vice president at Lafayette's Philippine unit.

Reyes has said the test run, if successful, will lead to the full reopening of the mine.

The government is pushing a revival of the mining sector to attract foreign investment and reduce poverty but has come under pressure from influential Roman Catholic bishops voicing concerns about the environmental impact.

Lafayette, the first foreign firm to develop and run a mine in the Philippines in almost 40 years, estimates Rapu-Rapu will generate revenues of $350 million per year from annual production of 10,000 tons of copper in concentrates, 14,000 tons of zinc, 50,000 ounces of gold and 600,000 ounces of silver.

A fact-finding committee investigating the spills in October, chaired by Sorsogon Bishop Arturo Bastes, called for the permanent closure of Lafayette's operations, a moratorium on mining on Rapu-Rapu and a review of the law allowing 100-percent foreign ownership of local mines.

The test run at the Rapu-Rapu mine will involve three stages—a five-day run of the processing plant with water to detect pipe leaks; a nine-day run with ore but without the minerals; and a 15-day run with ore and metals.

Some estimates value the Philippines' mineral wealth at $1 trillion. But many foreign investors have been discouraged by political turmoil, corruption, insurgencies in the resource-rich south and opposition from bishops and indigenous groups.

With a Reuters report

Aussie mining firm coughs up ₱10M for fine

LAFAYETTE PHILS. ANNOUNCED YESterday it had paid a P10.4-million fine for two mine incidents in October as it completed additional pollution safeguards imposed by the government preparatory to testing its processing facilities and eventually its resumption of operations.

The payment and the new safeguards were ordered by Environment Secretary Angelo Reyes as conditions before the test run, which would involve only water initially to allow the company's technicians to check the system for leaks and further fine-tuning, Lafayette said in a statement.

Lafayette said its new management under Carlos G. Dominguez had spent about P400 million for these remedial measures since taking over last January to show that the company would operate with the full assurance of environmental and health protection.

Lafayette's word

Dominguez, who spearheads Lafayette's bid to regain the public's trust in the company, had given his word that Lafayette would resume operations only after its systems and facilities pass all tests.

At full operations, the company said it is expected to directly hire 900 people, most of them from the host communities of Albay and Sorsogon.

With new revenues, the company said it would launch a series of projects that will directly benefit these communities, with education, livelihood, and environmental protection as priorities, including P31 million worth of social development projects.

In its decision, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) noted that aside from creating jobs, the project would also pay the government P3 billion in taxes, of which P244 million will go to local governments.

Full remediation

Reyes noted that allowing the project to resume operations would ensure the full remediation and rehabilitation of the mine site after the project is terminated in about seven years.

"An abandoned open pit mine is not an attractive proposition as it will simply cause small miners to descend on the area and they will operate without environmental safeguards and safety measures," said Reyes.

"In this case, the government, and ultimately the Filipino taxpayer, will have to shoulder the considerable cost of remediation and rehabilitation. Allowing Lafayette to resume operations will allow an ECC-consistent mine rehabilitation and decommissioning plan to be implemented," he added.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Saturday, June 24, 2006
Birth of John the Baptist

1st Reading:	Is 49:1-6
2nd Reading:	Acts 13:22-26
Gospel:	Luke 1:57-66, 80

When the time came for Elizabeth, she gave birth to a son. Her neighbors and relatives heard that the merciful Lord had done a wonderful thing for her and they rejoiced with her.

When on the eighth day they came to attend the circumcision of the child, they wanted to name him Zechariah after his father. But his mother said, "Not so; he shall be called John." They said to her, "No one in your family has that name"; and they asked the father by means of signs for the name he wanted to give. Zechariah asked for a writing tablet and wrote on it, "His name is John," and they were very surprised. Immediately Zechariah could speak again and his first words were in praise of God.

A holy fear came on all in the neighborhood, and throughout the Hills of Judea the people talked about these events. All who heard of it pondered in their minds and wondered, "What will this child be?" For they understood that the hand of the Lord was with him.

As the child grew up, he was seen to be strong in the Spirit; he lived in the desert till the day when he appeared openly in Israel.

Commentary

John: called from his mother's womb, a prophet that is an arrow of God, a sharp-edged sword of the Word of God, sent to the heart of the people who stray. God holds him in his quiver until it is time, as servant who shows forth his glory to all. He lives to declare the coming of the light and restore Israel, to go before the face of the Lord to come. He is known only by God and when he is born the tradition shifts. He is named John, beloved of God not in the line of his father's family. Even his name opens the mouth of his father and calls forth the praise of God. What will this child be? Even as we live our lives called in baptism we too must live as this sword, this arrow, this servant of God going before the face of the Lord.

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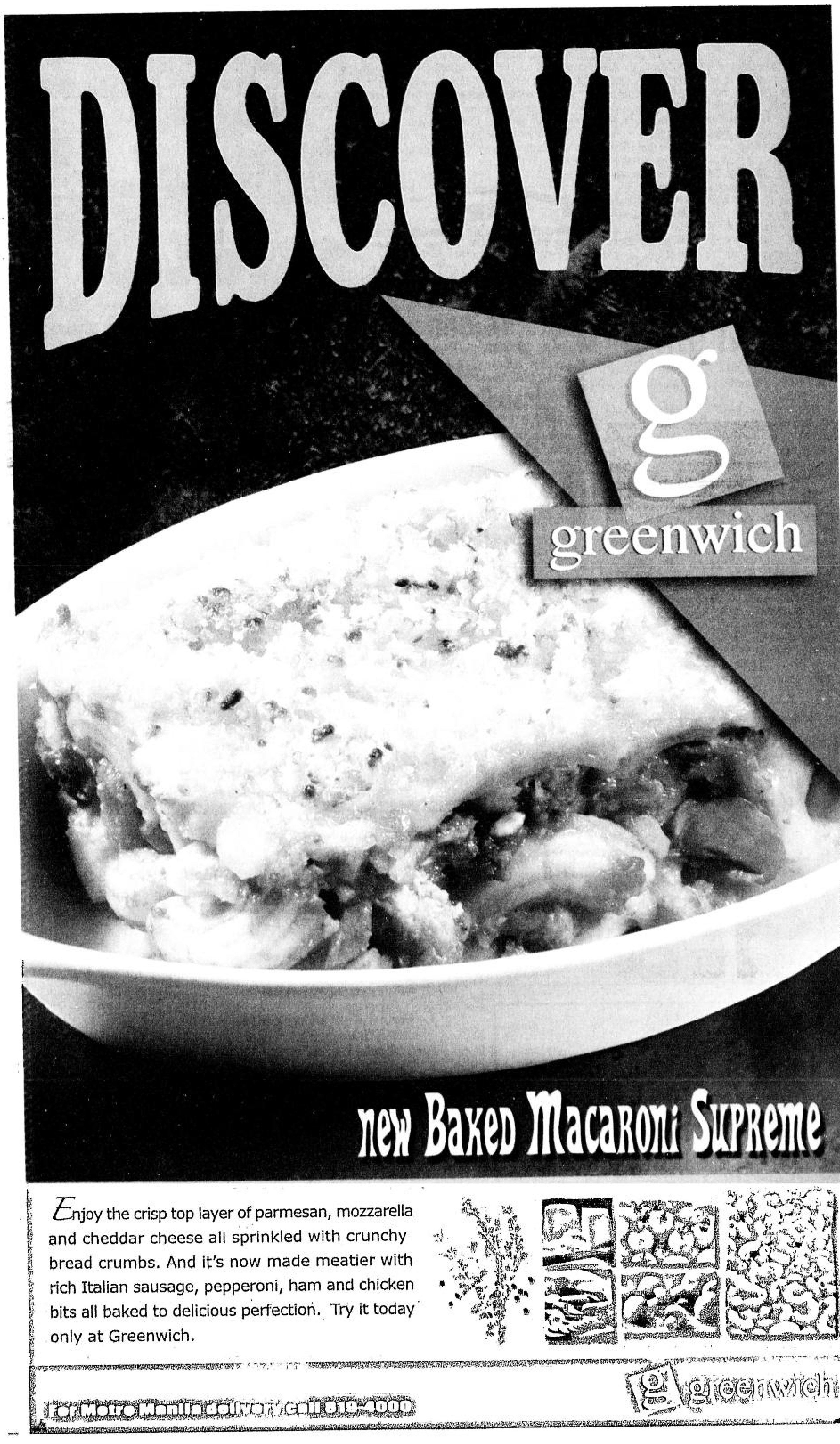
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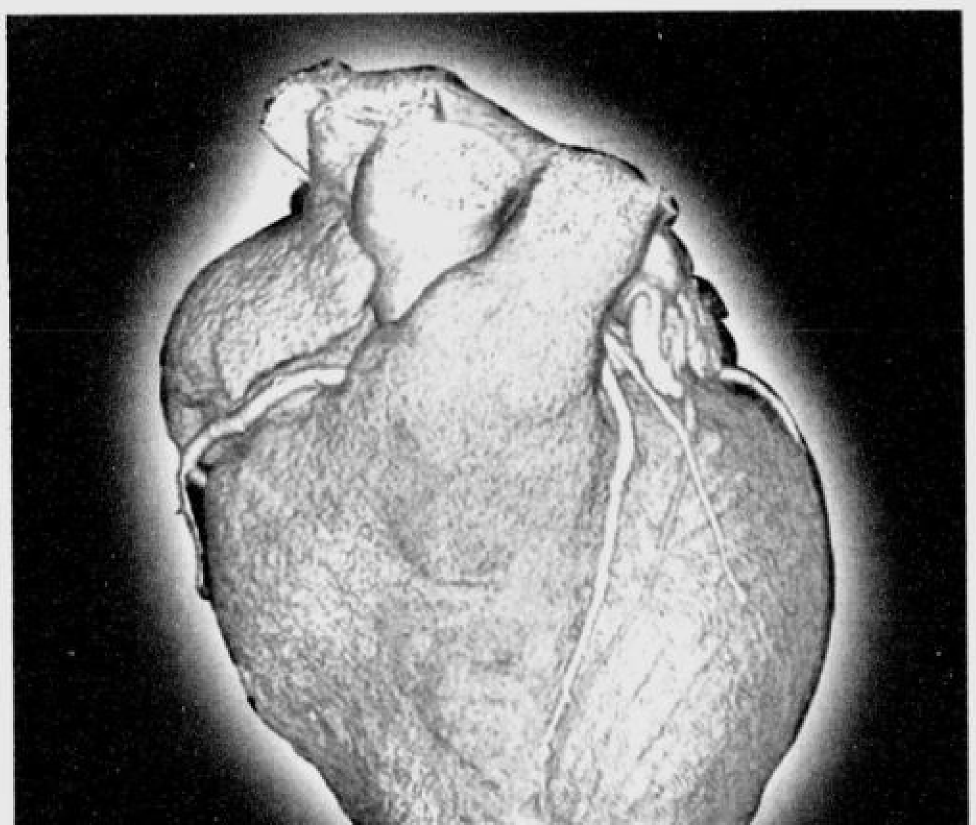

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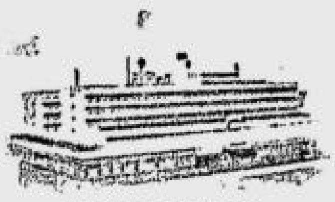

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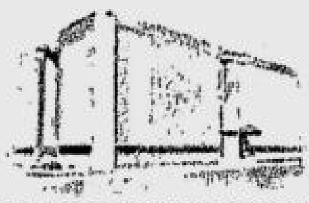

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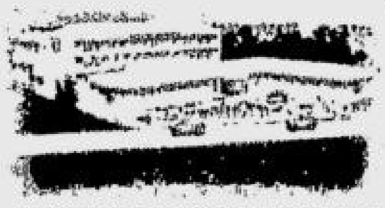

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OPINION

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EDITORIAL

THE REPORTED $200-MILLION WORLD BANK loan for education comes as a breath of fresh air after a series of bad news for a sector that has long been plagued by shortages, tight budgets, political meddling, etc. This is not to say that the $200-million loan will solve the crisis in our educational system. In fact, the shortcomings of the public school system are only half of the crisis. The other half lies in us: our lack of resolve or political will to address it. We must do more than just rely on outside assistance to solve the crisis and do what we have to do fast.

The statistics are there for all to see. As of the latest count, our public school system lacks more than 10,000 elementary and high school teachers, not to mention textbooks and others. Making things worse, only about 19 percent of 51,000 teachers scored 75 percent or better in English in a 2004 Self-Assessment Test conducted by the Department of Education, and a big number of Science and Math teachers did not major in those subjects.

These inadequacies may partly explain the disturbing academic performance of our students and the dubious literacy rate in a country touted as one of the most highly educated in the region and once Southeast Asia's favorite source of quality education. Around 9 million of the 57.6 million Filipinos aged 10-64 years are "functionally illiterate," meaning, "unable to read, write, subtract and add, or understand instructions—something normally learned by Grade 4." Even so, the "functional literacy rate" of 85 percent is "probably overstated." Among Grade 6 kids, only 26 percent have a mastery of English, 15 percent of Science, and 31 percent of Math; and among senior high school students, only 7 have mastered English, 2 percent, Science, and 16 percent, Math.

In the Trends in Math and Science Survey (TIMSS) taken in 2003, the Philippines scored the lowest among a group of Asian countries that included Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore.

To the credit of the private sector, a growing number of corporations and individuals have been responding to the crisis in various ways—building classrooms, providing learning facilities, funding scholarships, etc. And more and more local government units are pitching in, according to the Foundation for Worldwide People Power, which itself has launched Education Revolution 2006, a movement that seeks to mobilize entire communities in promoting quality education.

But the national government has yet to match these initiatives. In fact, it treats the crisis with some show of concern only around school year openings, and largely forgets it the rest of the year. The national government budget for education is very revealing. For example, in 2005, out of the total budget of P907.56 billion, the DepEd got only P112 billion. In the bigger P1.053-trillion budget proposed for 2006, the DepEd's budget is reduced to P108 billion. If we look deeper, 85 percent of the education department's annual budget goes to pay the salaries of teachers. That leaves a mere 15 percent for capital outlay, maintenance and operations (and needless to say, the actual amount spent for such items is even smaller because of corruption).

It may be argued that, among the departments, the DepEd has still the biggest appropriation. But it only amounts to 12 percent of the national budget compared to the ideal 20 percent.

It may be foolish to see some relief coming from our lawmakers. For example, how much of their pork barrel would they rather spend for non-priority projects, like waiting sheds and basketball courts, than for education?

It was only after the nation's attention was focused on the classroom shortage (which was denied by President Macapagal-Arroyo) that the bicameral conference committee, upon the instance of the Senate, sought to increase the DepEd's budget. But then the 2006 budget is unlikely to be passed by Congress, and the 2005 budget is poised for reenactment.

Significantly, the President has promised an additional P1 billion for her all-out war against communists to be taken from the "non-repeating projects" included in the 2005 budget. She has also committed another P1 billion for the government's anti-corruption campaign. Nothing for education. That surely says a lot about her priorities. And yet, the Constitution says the government should give the "highest budgetary priority to education."

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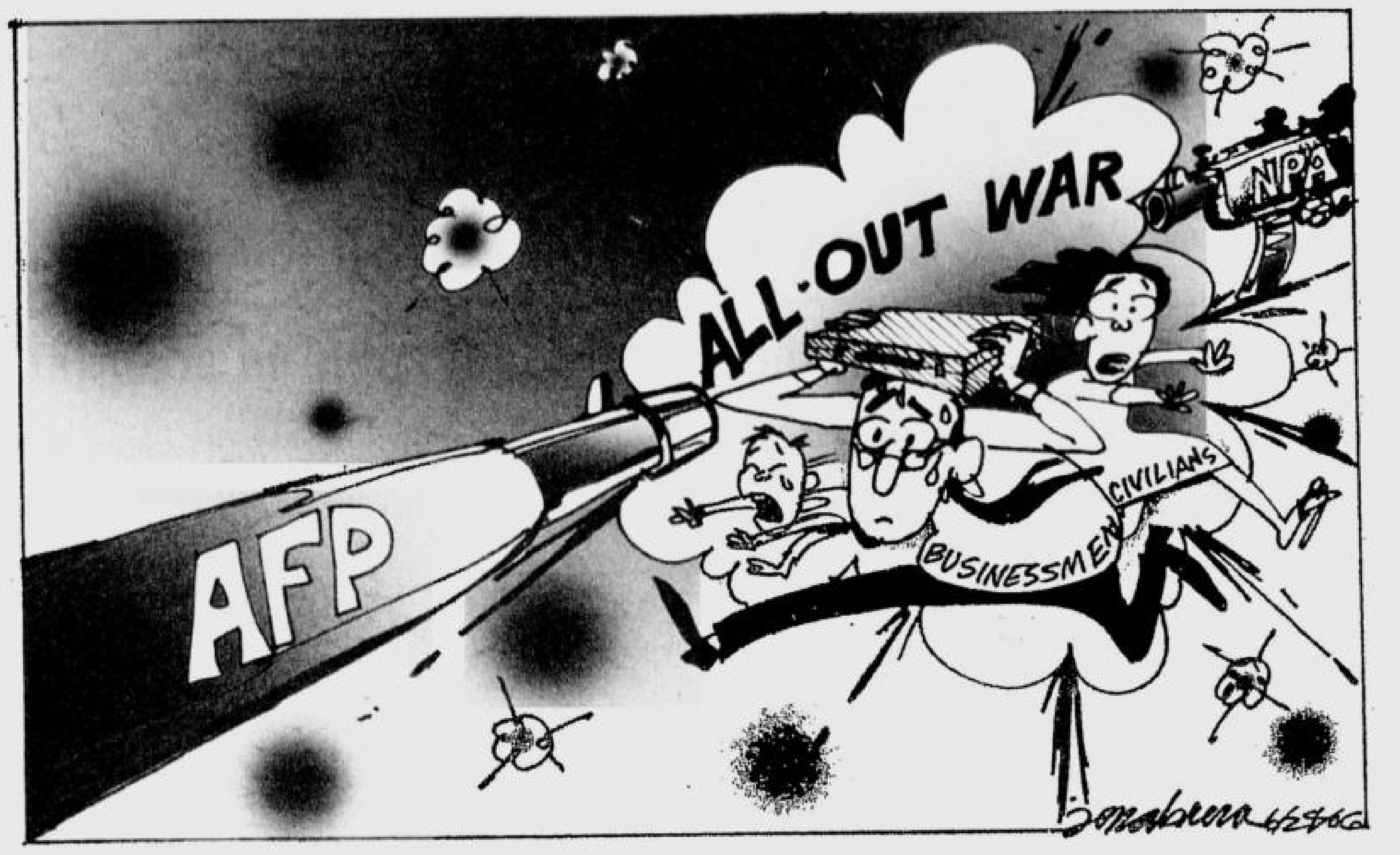

'The most formidable weapon'

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

> Let us rally against the new dictatorship with our sovereign will as our most formidable weapon

IF YOU BELIEVE GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARroyo is guilty of the offenses imputed to her by her critics, you must join the movement to impeach and remove her as President of the Philippines.

That is not only your right but a duty imposed upon you as "an individual particle of sovereignty." It is your will, with those of other Filipinos similarly exalted, that will rechart and protect the future of our country.

You cannot just stand still, given your considered conclusions. You are not only an observer of the passing scene but an active protagonist in the drama unfolding before us. You are as much an accuser and complainant as those who will actually prosecute her.

Impeachment has been described as "the most formidable weapon in the arsenal of democracy." But it is also derided as a "rusted blunderbuss" that is hardly fired because of its procedural limitations.

In the United States where our impeachment rules have been patterned, no President has been removed through this difficult method. Richard Nixon might have been its first casualty but evaded this dishonor by resigning. Andrew Johnson survived by a margin of only one vote and Bill Clinton by a bigger lead that even included Republican support.

The President of the Philippines, as well as other high officials of our government, may be impeached for culpable violation of the Constitution, treason, bribery, graft and corruption, other high crimes, or betrayal of public trust.

A complaint for impeachment may be filed by any member of the House of Representatives or by any citizen upon a resolution of endorsement by any House member. It may be elevated to the Senate by a vote of one-third of all the members of the House of Representatives.

Trial will be conducted by the Senate to be presided by the Chief Justice when the President of the Philippines is the respondent. Conviction shall require the vote of two-thirds of all the members of the Senate.

The judgment shall not extend beyond removal from office and disqualification to hold any other position in the government, but the accused shall still be subject to prosecution under our criminal laws.

Despite the strong evidence against President Joseph Estrada during his impeachment trial, it is doubtful if he could have been convicted with no less than 12 senators determined to acquit him. The 11 other senators were 5 short of the 16 votes needed to convict.

Last year, the complaint for impeachment against President Arroyo did not even reach first base. Her accusers could not enlist the one-third vote needed to refer the matter to the Senate.

One maneuver the complainants against Ms Arroyo are guarding against is the pre-emption of their bona fide charges by a fake complaint to be filed by her allies that is sure to be dismissed for lack of merit. Such a scheme will prevent the filing of another complaint against her during a period of one year, as prohibited by the Constitution.

Reportedly, there will be a vigilance task force to prevent the hatching of the insidious scheme. How? By violently preventing the filing of such a sham complaint? That would be a strong-arm tactic that would negate the peaceful (and intelligent) image of the enemies of the questioned Malacañang tenant.

I have the highest respect for the civic-minded persons who will file the complaint for impeachment against President Arroyo. They deserve the esteem and encouragement of all Filipinos who value freedom and detest oppression. I am personally determined to give them my full support in the exercise of my own resources, including my devotion to the Rule of Law.

My special admiration for Josefina T. Lichauco, a worthy colleague in the bar, for inspiring and leading the stalwart defenders in their threatened but undaunted ramparts.

All of us who share their passion for liberty are co-complainants with them in the condemnation of the abuses of the present administration under Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. Let us rally against the new dictatorship with our sovereign will as our most formidable weapon under the flag of the tattered Constitution.

Bad laws lead to poor revenue take

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod

REVENUE COMMISSIONER JOJO BUÑAG asked me to lunch after this column put him under a microscope a couple of weeks ago (where he unfortunately didn't come out looking too good). The request was done in the usual Asian manner—roundabout—that is to say, Buñag to friend to my husband Christian back to friend back to Buñag and finally to me (all through text), until a mutually convenient time and place could be arranged.

I appreciate the commissioner's efforts to explain his side, although it could have been done in a more efficient, albeit less pleasant, manner had he written his reaction and sent it to this newspaper. At least, it wouldn't have cost me so much (I paid for my own lunch—my call—and it set me back a pretty penny). The bright side is that Buñag is a very congenial person, and he thoughtfully provided me with several annual reports of the BIR, and other information that I asked for.

He made the following points, which in the interest of transparency and fair play, I faithfully report without comment: (1) The 2006 BIR targets were a "done deal" before Buñag, who was a deputy to Willy Parayno, took over; (2) Parayno's BIR met the 2003 targets, but did not meet the 2004 targets; (3) the targets for 2006 may have been set too high, and P20 billion of that was wrongfully assigned to the BIR rather than to the Bureau of Customs; (4) The 2-percentage point increase in the VAT starting this year isn't going to increase tax revenues to any appreciable extent; (5) Nevertheless, Buñag has changed his tune, and thinks that the targets can now be met; and (6) The head of the Large Taxpayers Service (LTS), who was removed and frozen during Rene Bañez's watch, did not get reappointed to that unit—she was instead promoted to deputy commissioner by President Macapagal-Arroyo. In connection with the last point, I apologize to the current head of the LTS, Merlinda L. Ordoyo, for any grief my giving out wrong information may have caused her.

That having been disposed of, the fact remains that the Philippines, even if the BIR were to successfully achieve its target, will still have one of the lowest tax-effort ratios (tax revenues to GDP) in the region, if not the world. Generally, at this stage of the conversation, fingers are pointed accusingly at the tax collection agencies and their heads (that's how Buñag got written about two weeks ago). But it is time we reminded ourselves of factors that are beyond the control of the revenue collection agencies, and for these, a great deal of the blame can be laid on Congress.

But we only legislate, our lawmakers claim, it is the executive department that implements. That is true. Still the quality of that legislation, particularly in tax matters, can and has been pretty bad.

Not to nag, but I must again cite as an example the failure of our lawmakers to remove one simple provision in the original sin tax bill, a provision that was inserted only during the bicameral committee negotiations. This provision mandates the use of 1996 prices as the basis for calculating the taxes on cigarettes, until changed by Congress. Well, Congress still refused to change it after seven years. The "new" sin tax law still contains it. According to estimates made by the Department of Finance, using 1996 instead of current prices to compute sin taxes costs Filipinos about P20 billion a year in foregone revenues. The main beneficiaries of the provision are the cigarette companies owned by Lucio Tan.

But large as that loss is, it pales in comparison with the foregone revenues as a result of the lousy fiscal incentives program (the objective of which is supposedly to encourage investments, both foreign and domestic), also passed by Congress. Why is it a lousy program? Because a just-completed study undertaken by Renato Reside of the UP School of Economics, entitled (dramatically but aptly) "Business and Government Without a Conscience* *(The tragic redundancy of fiscal incentives for investment in the Philippines)" finds that a large amount of incentives are redundant: they are given to many firms that would have invested anyway.

Reside estimates that 95 percent of the value of investments registered by the Board of Investments were given incentives that were redundant, and the cost to Filipinos of these incentives (income tax holidays, tax and duty exemptions) amounted to about P43.2 billion in 2004. This does not include the cost of redundancies in other "investment promoting agencies" such as the Philippine Economic Zone Authority, Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority and Clark Special Economic Zone.

To make matters worse, Reside, using econometric tools, finds that the incentives are "impotent"—they do not have the predictive power for cross-region investment (which is consistent with the results of cross-country studies). Rather, what influence the investment are real per capita GDP (i.e., a strong regional market), functional literacy (access to educated labor inputs promotes investment), and infrastructure (high road density promotes investment).

The biggest tragedy, of course, is that in giving the incentives to those who don't need them, much needed resources are lost that could have been used to improve the very education and infrastructure, which are the true promoters of investment.

There is a lesson here: Before Congress points to the motes in other people's eyes, it should deal with the mote in its own eye first.

Save the Constitution but lose the nation?

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

A NEW GROUP CALLED "ONE VOICE" IS IMpressive as it counts with eight bishops (out of 120 CBCP members), former Cabinet members, two former election commissioners, several 1986 Constitutional Commission members, the superior of the Jesuits in the Philippines, a number of educators, NGO workers, etc. In a full-page ad, it stated its major thesis: that there is no need to change the Constitution as basic social and electoral reforms can be done without it.

To my mind, the argument is flawed. Many reforms the group seeks are on every Filipino's wish list, e.g., social and economic infrastructure and safety-nets for the poor, but most of them need legislation. Our experience in the past 60 years, however, shows that such laws cannot be passed by our perennially deadlocked two-chamber set-up. For instance, One Voice rightly cites housing as a major concern, but the bill creating the Department of Housing has slept in the Senate, along with many other reform bills. There's also the perpetual conflict between the executive and legislative. Under the parliamentary system, the two branches are fused under a party government that claims full responsibility for governance.

* * *

One Voice has raised apprehensions that are not valid. It says the proposed Constitution is not acceptable because it takes away our right to vote directly for the president. It's conceded that Filipinos want to vote directly for their president for a good number of reasons, the pecuniary and the circus-like campaign atmosphere included. But to use this as a major argument is clearly to play to the gallery. They surely know that many nations do not vote directly for the head of government, but also are more progressive than our country.

* * *

One Voice also raised the bogey of no elections in 2007. This was indeed a scenario raised in the consultative commission by a very small group, but this was quickly killed in the debates.

It also raised fears about having a "super-President with additional Prime Minister powers." But isn't the proposal to create the new post of prime minister precisely intended to dilute the powers of a strong president, so that by 2010 he would be reduced to a ceremonial role, or perhaps even become non-existent?

The group also asserted that "constitutional reforms are best done through a more transparent Constitutional Convention after the 2007 elections." But the lessons of the 1971 Con-Con show that such an undertaking takes years to finish and is very expensive. Sen. Edgardo Angara, who was in that Con-Con, recalled that the preamble alone took over six months and consumed the entire P15 million budget. By the time the Con-Con finishes its work, *baka tapos na ang* boxing and we would have been left far behind by our neighbors.

One Voice seems loaded with personalities from the Aquino years, some recycled from the Black and White Movement. But it may be that they're too engrossed with saving the Cory Constitution, which was a direct reaction to the Marcos regime, but not as earnest as saving the nation from stagnation.

* * *

This Monday, Philippine Export Zone Authority director general Lilia de Lima will receive a singular honor from the Japanese emperor when she becomes the very first Filipino to be decorated with Japan's Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Star. It will be conferred at the residence of Ambassador Ryuichiro Yamazaki. The historic award, Japan's first, was established in 1875 and is conferred bi-annually upon foreigners "who have made notable contributions to enhance bilateral relations." De Lima is being recognized for the "distinguished services she has been making to encourage investments by Japanese enterprises." As required of any foreign decoration, Congress gave its consent last May 31 for De Lima to accept the award.

Since Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Aso formally notified her last April 29, congratulatory messages have poured from various Japanese firms, including the giants of Japanese industry. The honor is very richly deserved by this lady lawyer who has steered Peza for many years now. She brings great honor to our country. Congratulations, Lilia!

* * *

While one Filipina is being honored, another one is being unjustly treated by the Comelec's First Division, headed by Commissioner Resurrection Borra. Recently, the First Division reversed the decision of Judge Arturo Bernardo of the Gapan City Regional Trial Court, upholding the victory of the multi-awarded, second-term mayor of San Isidro, Nueva Ecija, Sonia R. Lorenzo. The public school teachers who testified in court affirmed that the elections were clean and honest and that the returns they prepared reflected the true count. But these were ignored by the First Division. One can only hope that the Comelec en banc will set things right.

Ironically, Lorenzo is being removed at a time when her honest and efficient administration has drawn many projects of big-time institutions to San Isidro. Surely these projects wouldn't have been drawn there if her poll victory was anomalous. The future of these projects is uncertain and the townspeople could be the loser. Among them are the Ateneo Center for Educational Development, which seeks to uplift the quality of public education there; the Gawad Kalinga which has made it the model for Central Luzon; the RP-Israel Center for Agricultural Training, one of two such centers in Region 3 that seeks to facilitate technology transfer. San Isidro, with Lorenzo at the helm, received the presidential award for best performing LGU against illegal drugs, and the national award from the League of Municipalities for innovative approaches to health care delivery. She was also recognized as the most outstanding mayor by the province in 2003 and this year. She was the only local executive among the seven AIM-Mirant Bridging Leadership Fellows from July 2005-2007.

Wining and dining

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

IT WAS DURING A "WINE DINNER" HOSTED BY Torres Wines that we got to talking about our education in wines and appreciation of libation. Our table of women writers—Eggie Apostol of Mr. & Ms Magazine, Julie Yap Daza of the Manila Bulletin, Norma Chikiamco of Food Magazine, publicist Corito Fiel and myself—faced with a bewildering array of white and red wines, a different variety accompanying each course, harked back to simpler times when Boone's Apple Wine was considered the height of sophistication.

I don't know if Corito was right in asserting that "our" generation was the first to begin pushing the stylistic envelope on alcoholic consumption. I do remember a short story by Nick Joaquin where a visitor to a middle-class Filipino household marveled that she had been asked if she wanted some wine, since it wasn't too long ago that visitors would be served Coke, and only Coke, upon arrival. I guess every generation seeks to establish its cosmopolitan credentials, with wine being the educational material of choice.

Boone's Apple Wine, sweet and chilled, while not exactly Wine Appreciation 101, at least gave us the illusion of sophistication and a taste for sweet alcohol. In college, while our boyfriends drowned their sorrows in beer, we sought more refined (or so we thought) escapes: Sangria, Margaritas and Screwdrivers. That's how I found out I was allergic to gin, waking up after a night of partying with a bad case of hives.

My ultimate wine-appreciation class occurred soon after graduation from college, ironically enough over meals at Villa San Miguel, the official residence of Jaime Cardinal Sin, where lunches and dinners were always marked by the serving of wine and liqueurs. Some afternoons after work, we would hie off to the Villa kitchen where Msgr. Gene Velarde, at the time one of the cardinal's secretaries who could count among his talents the creation of a mean Margarita, would demonstrate this talent much to our noisy delight.

* * *

UNFORTUNATELY, this wasn't enough to turn me into a connoisseur, and to this day, I have trouble matching what wine should go with which dish, beyond the formula of "white with seafood and red with meat."

Still, I can count a few memorable wine "moments," including two in which Shiraz, a grape variety that grows in Australia, figures prominently. The first was in San Francisco while I was on a six-week fellowship together with three other Filipinos: Rep. Neric Acosta, Bacolod-based journalist Mate Espina and reproductive health advocate Dr. Junice Melgar. We had decided to pool our money for dinner and the congressman volunteered to cook *adobo*, which we instantly dubbed his "pork barrel *adobo*." Trawling the aisles of a gourmet market for wine, I stumbled upon a bottle of Shiraz, which I had read about, and recommended we try it. It was a propitious choice. The mellow, fruity Shiraz complemented the *adobo* perfectly and we finished the bottle without trouble.

A year or so later, I was in Singapore with a few friends to watch our common friend Bart Guingona in a play. On our last day, we met at a fast-food outlet and Guido Delgado, who fancies himself a wine connoisseur, brought out a bottle of a prize-winning Shiraz vintage, which he said he had found through the Internet. We committed the mortal sin of drinking the wine from plastic cups, but even in plastic cups amid the mundane and noisy setting of a basement outlet, the wine transported us out of our dreary reality.

* * *

TRANSPORTING indeed was the "Torres Wine Dinner" held at Segundo Piso Bistro (roughly, second-floor bistro) of Terry's Selection along Pasong Tamo Extension in Makati.

A Viva Esmeralda Moscatel-Gewustraminer 2005, a delicate white wine that barely left traces on the tongue, accompanied the appetizers, ranging from wontons stuffed with seafood mousse, béchamel croquettes and baguette rounds with fava bean puree and Cataluña sausage.

The chilled Andalusian tomato soup and pasta course was accompanied by Gran Vina Sol Chardonnay 2004, another white of heavier flavor. Strangely enough, the next course, codfish medallions in pepper sauce, was accompanied not by a white wine but by Manso de Velasco Cabernet Sauvignon 2001, which complemented (and did not overwhelm as conventional wisdom says) the fish. A Marimar Pinot Noir 2001, my personal favorite among the wines served that evening, was served along with the chicken dish simmered in Pinot Noir sauce, while a fuller-bodied Mas la Plana Cabernet Sauvignon 2002 was served alongside the cheese. The long and filling dinner was capped with dessert of gingerbread on a Moscatel Sabayon, with Moscatel de Oro providing the right sweet ending. There was Jaime Reserva de Familia Brandy to follow, but by this time all of us on our table were too knackered for any more alcohol.

* * *

JOINING us briefly was Miguel Torres Maczassek, a third-generation family member who, while not trained in oenology, learned the art of wine appreciation at the family dining table and is now part of the Torres Wines marketing concern.

While based in Barcelona and environs, Torres Wines sources its grapes not just from its own vineyards, including a winery in Sonoma, California, managed by Miguel's sister Marimar, but also from all around the world. While their biggest selling products in the Philippines are still the brandies, he says sales of red wine have been climbing steadily here, with sales exhibiting an impressive 50-percent rise. The local distributor of Torres Wines is ATR-Torres Wines and Spirits, with main office in San Pablo City.

With the help of Torres Wines and promotional activities like that dinner, we may yet further our education in wines!

Is 'Eurabia' inevitable?

WORLD VIEW

Mai Yamani

WHAT IS IT THAT MAKES YOUNG MUSLIMS IN the West susceptible to radicalism? What is it about the experience of the West's rising generation of Muslims that leads a small minority to see violence as a solution to their economic and political dilemmas, and suicide as their reward and salvation?

Britain, which will soon mark the anniversary of last year's bombings in London, provides a test case for seeking answers to these questions. For young British Muslims, our globalized world challenges key beliefs, destabilizing their identity and thus encouraging a defensive response. British citizenship, of course, guarantees freedom of expression and minority rights, and young Muslims take full advantage of this. Yet they are using this freedom to deepen family and cultural ties to the closed world of their inherited Muslim identity, particularly its politics.

In practice, this means that many young Muslims are utterly preoccupied with events in the Arab and Muslim world. They see what we see: a region where autocratic countries seem corrupt and paralyzed. But they also see an unprecedented level of hostility from the West, with regime after regime seeming to be either in peril or facing chaos. Afghanistan, Iraq, Palestine and now Iran: all seem to be under attack as part of the "global war on terror." As a result, the West's strategic choices appear inherently anti-Islamic to countless young Muslims.

This preoccupation with the Middle East is at the heart of young Muslims' politics in British universities, mosques and websites. Although most do not support Pakistan's Pervez Musharraf, Egypt's Hosni Mubarak, or the al-Saud family, they see hypocrisy in Western criticism of these leaders that is designed to manipulate and marginalize. After all, the West does not really want to push these regimes too far.

Access to the Internet, satellite television and travel is drawing these young Muslims into a community that shares their vision and their rage. So technology is heightening the tensions that exist between the mechanics of a modern free society and the sense of a vast conspiracy against Muslims. This has led to a schism between the hopes young Muslims have for successful lives in the West and their aspirations for their Muslim brothers and sisters, who have suffered so many terrible disappointments.

As young Muslims in Britain (and across the West) try to maneuver between the various, and often conflicting, aspects of their identity, three clear tendencies have emerged.

- A secular and pragmatic response, which makes Islam a private matter.
- A conservative stance that reconciles cultural, religious and familial ties with "Britishness."
- A radical response to the perceived collision between the foreign policies of their new homelands and the welfare of the Islamic world.

Messianic waves from the Middle East, reaching both schools and mosques, help draw young Muslims into radicalism. One such wave is created by the hardline Saudi/Wahhabi education system, which is based on the concept of *al-wala' wa al bara'*, loyalty to the system and hostility to the infidels. This curriculum, exported Westward by fat Saudi subsidies, is heavily punctuated with denunciations of the infidels and calls to jihad. Designed to secure the legitimacy of the Saudi monarchy at home, it is indoctrinating young Western Muslims with values antithetical to open and free societies.

Britain's government is beginning to recognize the danger, and is trying to clamp down on schools and mosques that spread hate. Unfortunately, such repression has been merely reactive and shortsighted, with no clear long-term vision about the nature of Islamic education in the West. Thus, it merely feeds young Muslims' fears that they are being singled out for persecution.

One difficulty with the British government's response is that it classifies all Muslims as just that: Muslim. By defining people on the basis of their religion, nuances—of national identity or of the degree of orthodoxy—are lost. This plays into the hands of radicals, because it makes Islam the central element of identity.

Islamic radicalization and terror need not continue to flourish in the West. Regardless of their disappointments with the Western countries' foreign policy, young Muslims have been exposed to their undeniable democratic spirit. They may now seek a deeper connection to their Muslim identity, but, having learned to question authority, they are unlikely to accept rigid parental or Islamic traditions. Like other young people around them, they want to be the agents of their own destiny.

This desire is changing Islam, especially in the West. The basic texts remain the same, but their interpretation, and the application of religion in people's lives, have not. Young Muslims, particularly in the West, are setting an example that is slowly being echoed in the Middle East, despite massive state repression.

The task for Western policymakers is to recognize the interconnection of foreign and domestic policies. They must become serious about backing legitimate democratic representation in Muslim countries, for only then will Western policy seem less hypocritical. They must also ensure that career choices are as open to their Muslim citizens as they are to everyone else.

In short, young Muslims in the West need to believe that democratic principles are respected abroad and applied equally at home. Only when such a belief becomes general will despair stop fueling terrorism, and suicide bombing come to be viewed as an obscene calling. ***Project Syndicate***

Mai Yamani is the author of "Cradle of Islam" and a senior research fellow at Chatham House, the Royal Institute of Economic Affairs.

'Noli me tangere'

YOUNG BLOOD

Basilio I. Valdehuesa

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—**Ed.**

I HAVE ALWAYS HAD A STRANGE RELATIONSHIP WITH Jose Rizal and his works. As a Filipino-American who migrated to the United States at the age of 9, I never had to read and study "Noli Me Tangere" and "El Filibusterismo," as did many of my contemporaries who were educated in the Philippines. But like the stamps of my identity, like my almond-shaped eyes and tanned skin, I have always carried the ghost of Rizal with me, especially because of my first name. Everywhere I go, educated Filipinos would ask, "Hey, Basilio, where's Crispin?" And for most of my life, I only had a vague idea of what they were talking about because I had not read Rizal's works, although I was aware that his writings played a significant role in my homeland's struggle for independence.

It wasn't until I was 27 and a graduate student that I finally picked up "Noli Me Tangere" and plunged into it, plumbing my identity as an "exiled" Filipino. That led me to a discovery that revealed more to me about myself, the land where I came from and the brilliance of my countrymen.

Even as a child, I knew (thanks to my curiosity about this strangely titled book sitting on my parents' bookshelf) that the popular translation of "Noli Me Tangere" was "Touch Me Not." I always thought it was an odd title for a book of its repute, for what did a command not to be touched have to do with Philippine independence? I also found it strange that the title did not sound Filipino, or even Spanish (which many people I knew believed it was). I assumed that if I read the book, I would know why Rizal chose this title.

Reading "Noli," however, I could not find any overt reference that would give its exact meaning. When I discussed this with my parents and my contemporaries, I learned that Filipinos are often taught that "touch me not" was a request from Filipinos to their Spanish colonial masters to "leave them be" or to stop abusing our people. But this sounded too simplistic to me. For if it was meant as a request to be left alone, why did Rizal choose to put it this way and in a strange language?

In the introduction to his English translation of Rizal's book, Leon Maria Guerrero offers another explanation: "Touch Me Not" refers to the Spanish religious orders of the time, who were considered invincible and "untouchable," and whose despotic and corrupt practices were the principal target of the book. This explanation I also found inadequate. I felt it did not go deep enough into the heart of the matter.

In graduate school, I finally decided to get to the bottom of this mystery. On the Internet, the first thing I discovered was that "noli me tangere" was not something that was unique to Philippine history. It is Latin, and it can be found in the Bible in John 20:17: "Noli me tangere," Jesus tells Mary Magdalene upon her discovery of His resurrected body, following His crucifixion and burial. It is a dramatic moment, captured by many paintings over the centuries that bear the injunction as their title.

I also found out the meaning of "noli me tangere" has never been precisely defined, and that it has been the subject of debate among Christian theologians and scholars for hundreds of years. One eminent theologian, Fr. Raymond Edward Brown, has counted at least 11 different interpretations given by various scholars.

Some said Jesus' wounds were still sore, and so He asked not to be touched to be spared the pain. Others believed that Jesus was admonishing Mary Magdalene not to look for physical proof that He was alive but instead to have faith in His Resurrection. But among the many different interpretations identified by Brown, the most plausible, to me, was the one advanced by St. John Chrysostom, bishop of Antioch in the 4th and 5th centuries. St. John said that when Jesus uttered those words, He was asking for respect. St. John believed that Jesus was saying, "Approach Me not as ye did before, for matters are not in the same state, nor shall I henceforth be with you in the same way."

When I read St. John I had a eureka moment. I felt sure that this was what Rizal intended to say when he gave his novel the title, "Noli Me Tangere," not only because of its relevance to the Filipinos' relationship with their colonial masters, but also because the name of "Noli's" hero, Juan Crisostomo Ibarra, has an uncanny similarity to St. John Chrysostom's. Moreover, St. John was known to have openly criticized the Church and the government of his time, denouncing their corruption and excesses. ("Chrysostom" is Greek for "golden-mouthed," a name given to the bishop because of his reputation as a great orator and speaker of the truth.) And he was severely punished for his views by being banished and exiled. The parallels between the experiences of St. John and Ibarra cannot be mere coincidence.

This discovery about the title of his book, our national treasure, underscored for me the brilliance of Jose Rizal, and made me proud to be a Filipino. It showed that long before the age of the Internet and advanced information technology, Rizal was a scholar who had studied the writings of a 5th-century bishop whom very few people know, both in the Philippines and in the United States. Rizal even directly quotes the saint in the last chapter of his other masterpiece, "El Filibusterismo."

I have observed that we Filipinos often put ourselves down. We seem to believe that we are inferior to other peoples, especially the Americans and Europeans. Whenever I return to my homeland, I am assailed by billboards featuring actors and models who don't look like the Filipinos walking in the street, and by products like skin whiteners that are an affront to people like me who have the benefit of living in a society that teaches that all people are equal, no matter the color of our skin. Even in the United States, where Filipinos are the second largest Asian immigrant group, we do our best to be unobtrusive and barely recognizable by other Americans. We are often mistaken for Chinese, Koreans or Vietnamese, because we try to discard our culture quickly and assimilate with other groups, hoping we can get rid of our "flaws" and imbibe the "superior" aspects of other cultures.

Jose Rizal was a great man. He was of slight stature and had almond eyes, a wide nose and brown skin. Once he wrote, referring to the virtues of justice, law and reason, that "it is useless to answer certain objections of some fine writers regarding the rather brown skins and faces with somewhat wide nostrils . . Law has no skin nor Reason, nostrils." Let us honor him by remembering his fine example and taking with pride our rightful place in the world, knowing that we are a gifted and beautiful people.

Basilio I. Valdehuesa, 28, recently graduated from New York University with a master of science degree in Global Affairs.

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Let's play football, Philippines

THE WORLD CUP! A TRULY EXciting, highly emotional and overwhelmingly anticipated international sports event. A rare, once-every-four-years treat for enumerable football fans in both rich and poor countries, the World Cup is such a phenomenal global event because it makes no distinction between and among races, cultures, creeds, political beliefs, and wealthy and poor nations. All that matters is the love for football—the most widely played sport in the whole of planet Earth—and that makes for one hell of a universal bond among nations.

Filipinos were introduced to football by the Spaniards and for a time they took to it seriously. In the 1920s and the 1930s, the Philippine football team was competing pretty well internationally.

In poor countries, football is the cheapest sport to play because all you need is a ball. (In Brazil, from which a number of the world's best football players have come, poor, young people kick coconuts for a ball.) You can play the game in any open field. You don't even need shoes to play it. (Like Ronaldinho, you can learn how to wear shoes later.)

With a global population that is predominantly poor, do you still wonder why the poor are a powerhouse source of football players? But football is predominant not only in poor countries but also in the richest European and Arab countries.

Other sports, like basketball, require height for mastery of the air; football demands mastery of the ground—and there the Filipino is a natural. Filipinos are fast: we are agile, we got grace and rhythm; we got head. Why don't we aspire to become a participant in the most popular sports event in the world—the World Cup? Speed, agility and grace are the same athletic traits required of boxing and we have been witness to a good number of Filipino boxers, past and present (and most likely future), becoming world champions.

We have heard reports that every year Fifa, the world international football organization, provides "big money" for the development of Philippine football. Yet, we hardly see any progress in this sport in our country. We ask: Where have the Fifa funds gone? More importantly, why are we not promoting football where our youthful athletes' inherent talents can be put to excellent use?

Come on, Philippine government, the Philippine Football Federation and all local football organizers, the private sector and media, let us work together in the true spirit of the Filipino *bayanihan* tradition, and let us begin to promote and support football in this country where our athletes possess the natural competencies to compete internationally. Let's go, play football!

—CHITO GONZALEZ,
chitogonzalez@gmail.com

Difference between fake and counterfeit drugs

PLEASE ALLOW ME TO CLARIFY certain points in Neal Cruz 's June 9 column titled "Law to control medicine prices here soon."

I was the president of the Philippine Medical Association when the Samahan Laban sa Pekeng Gamot was formed. I am still an active member of the group. Samahan was formed to supplement the government program to import cheaper medicines rather than fight it, in anticipation that some fly-by-night drug distributors (or manufacturers) would take advantage of it.

The Samahan was formed to help consumers become more vigilant against counterfeit and fake medicines, encourage drugstores to sell legitimate medicines, urge the concerned government agencies to enforce laws, and prod legislators to enact laws on counterfeits.

Sadly, imported drugs are now being smuggled into the Philippine market without passing through the Bureau of Food and Drugs (BFAD), thus making them counterfeit. Without undergoing bioavailability and bioequivalence testing, these drugs are questionable and could be fake.

Cruz said that counterfeits include imported medicines with the same formulations as the genuine ones manufactured here. Counterfeit medicines, as defined by Republic Act 8203 (the Special Law on Counterfeit Drugs), refer to unregistered imported drug products, except those brought in the country for personal use as confirmed and justified by accompanying medical records. Hence, an imported medicine is considered counterfeit when it is not registered with the BFAD.

"Counterfeit" is a legal issue touching on the infringement of intellectual property rights; "fake" is a factual issue touching on the contents of a drug claimed to contain the right formulation when actually it does not. The difference between the two should not be taken lightly. In fact, the Department of Health and BFAD can very well attest to the existence of fake medicines and the reality of the danger they pose.

Cruz also stated that the lines "*pagka kaduda-duda ang presyo* (when the price is doubtful)" and "*pagka kaduda-duda ang pinanggalingan* (when the source is doubtful)" are directed principally against the medicines imported by the Philippine International Trading Center (PITC). The lines are guidelines meant to help the public in detecting counterfeit and fake medicines. The illegal trade of counterfeiting (thus, faking) medicines and selling them has become a serious and growing threat because more and more people, including organized syndicates, are engaging in it. Distinguishing real medicines from the fake ones has become increasingly difficult.

Counterfeiters are aided by technological advances in making their medicines look like the real thing, and unsuspecting consumers easily fall into their trap. The recent World Health Organization forum on counterfeit medicines acknowledges this to be a worldwide problem and an alarming trend.

—BU CASTRO, M.D.,
former president,
Philippine Medical Association,
member, Samahan Laban
Sa Pekeng Gamot

Inquirer story lifts morale of elderly citizens

THANKS TO THE INQUIRER and DJ Yap of the Metro section for the encouraging news report, published in the April 17 issue of the INQUIRER, regarding my complaint against Wan Chai Restaurant on Congressional Avenue, Quezon City for not granting me the 20-percent discount mandated by law. The report gave me the confidence to carry on this crusade for my fellow senior citizens.

The restaurant manager has admitted the mistake and apologized for what happened. But I am determined to bring this case to court in the hope of moving Congress into legislating stronger penalties for violations of the rights of the elderly.

The drive for the sustained protection of senior citizens should be a major concern of government authorities and the private sector.

—NARCISO L. ALANO,
former NFA assistant
administrator,
narcingalano@surfshop.net

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER LETTERS

No political GSIS projects

WE WRITE IN RESPONSE TO the letter of Antonio B. Borja titled "Adjust GSIS monthly pensions to present economic realities." (PDI, 6/12/06)

We fully sympathize with our retirees, knowing how difficult life is nowadays. That is why the current leadership of the Government Service Insurance System has made it a point to increase the pensions of our old-age pensioners every year as our way of showing our genuine concern for them.

Borja raised in his letter the issue of increasing the pensions to at least P10,000 per month to help those who are receiving less than this amount. For his and the public's information, the GSIS, with Winston Garcia as its general manager, has already adopted a policy lifting the cap on old-age pension, which previously was pegged at a maximum of P14,400 a month.

Under the new policy, pensioners can receive monthly pensions of up to 90 percent of their last salary—meaning, those who were receiving P20,000 before they retired could receive up to P18,000 in monthly pensions, plus entitlements to annual increases. This policy is meant to provide our pensioners real income during their retirement years.

We believe that this present policy is not only fair but is very generous compared with other pension schemes. Unfortunately, such policies cannot be made retroactive, such that some of our pensioners receive lower amounts because they retired under GSIS policies that prescribed pension limits.

Also, we would like to clarify that GSIS monthly pensions are computed on the basis of the member's years of service and his average monthly compensation (AMC). Hence, some of our retirees receive lower pensions because they had lower salaries, especially during their last three years in the service, which is the basis for the computation of their AMCs.

Rest assured, however, that the GSIS will continue to find ways to help our old-age pensioners without undermining the pension fund's financial soundness. As for politics dipping into GSIS funds, our record-breaking financial performance during the past several years attests to the fact that we are doing our best to insulate the GSIS from what Borja called "political projects."

—ELLA E. VALENCERINA,
vice president,
Public Affairs Office,
Government Service
Insurance System

Statement on specific class only, not entire student population

THIS IS IN REACTION TO THE news item "State of RP education: Freebies are not enough." (PDI, 6/4/06) Please be informed that the story has drawn different reactions from our school faculty. One thing, the report made a sweeping generalization by branding General Pio Del Pilar National High School as a "non-performing school."

I was the teacher interviewed by one of the INQUIRER field reporters. I would say that the conversation was about the poor performance of the students "inside the classroom" despite the teachers' initiative to maximize learning and remedial classes implemented by the school. I told him that "perhaps, it (poor classroom performance) might be attributed to the lack of parental concern."

All these were said based only on my observation as an adviser of students belonging to the lowest section in first year. I was therefore only talking about the students under my supervision and in my advisory class, and not about the performance of the entire student population.

I only wonder why there had to be a sweeping generalization. The damage has been done. We can no longer undo what has been published. How does one remedy an image that has already been wrongly tarnished?

I do believe that the INQUIRER, having been in the business of news reporting for quite a while, clearly understands the real meaning of responsible journalism—which every journalist must uphold.

—JOCHEBED A. ACAB,
General Pio Del Pilar
National High School,
F. Zobel cor. Morong Street,
Poblacion, Makati City

Better than nothing at all

WE, THE PARENTS OF THE STUdents of General Pio Del Pilar National High School, Makati City, feel that the news item "State of RP education: Freebies are not enough" (PDI, 6/4/06) was unfair to us and our children. The reporter should have listened to our side before coming out with the report.

1. How can one ever judge our school "non-performing" just by an analysis of the 2004 National Achievement Test? If we were to be asked, we can boastfully say our children are learning better in this school compared to those in other schools. How else to explain the many students from private schools who are trying their best to be transferred to our school, and not to other schools here in Makati or nearby areas?

Did the reporter inquire from our school's office about the many citations and awards our school has garnered since its establishment? Or, maybe, just for curiosity's sake, the INQUIRER can set a competition between the best student of Lope de Vega with our best student, for the INQUIRER to know how good our students are.

2. How can one compare the performance of our school which has 2,700 students with that of Lope de Vega, which has 489 students only? But just because we lack schoolhouses or the Department of Education cannot provide us with enough teachers, our school cannot deny our Makati youth access to education. At least, the school administration is exerting its best to provide our children with education even it means that the teachers would have to render extra hours of service. And we truly appreciate this.

3. How can one say that our school lacks laboratory and IT facilities? Where in the Philippines can one find a public school where the student-computer ratio is 1:1? Isn't it, therefore, but natural for students to share the use of school computers? At least, our students have access to computers provided by the school, isn't that more acceptable than nothing? There is a laboratory, and maybe it lacks some materials—if that is the opinion of the students interviewed. But it serves its purpose and is still better than nothing at all.

4. Outside factors affecting the development of our children? The reporter mentioned students coming from broken homes and dysfunctional families. Did he try to find out just how many of these students there are and did he compare their number to the total population of our school? And, where did he get the idea that we, the parents, do not care?

—EDGARDO V. COLLADO
AND 9 OTHER SIGNATORIES,
officers, General Parent-Teacher
Association, General Pio Del Pilar
National High School

IF you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of news and photos by the Inquirer, you may write to the Readers' Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue, corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, City of Makati or send a fax to Nos. 897-4793, 897-4794, or e-mail readersadvocate@ inquirer.com.ph

Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

TV GUIDE

Saturday, June 24, 2006

THEY WILL BE THE JUDGES. YOU WILL BE THE JURY.
Philippine Idol
ABANGAN SA JULY 29!
ABC
Iba Tayo!

ClickTheCity.com

Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABC 5	Kid's TV	KNN	Anime Ring Kaisho		PBA					Wow Maling Mali		Ripley's Believe It or Not		ABCinema		Sabado Movie Greats			
ABS-CBN 2	ETK				Little Big Star		Komiks		Let's Go	Quizon Avenue		TV Patrol World	XXX						
AXN		Half Past Dead				WRC 2006 Mid Season Review		30 Seconds To Fame	E Buzz	Mondo Magic	Mondo Magic	Max Exposure (Season 1)		Lost (Season II)		Numb3rs (Season 2)		Supernatural (Season I)	
Cartoon Network	Powerpuff Girls	Foster's Home For Imaginary Friends	Tom & Jerry Show	[illegible] Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy		Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy [illegible] Camp Lazlo		The Simpsons		Bratz-Genie Magic			The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy (8:45 PM)	The Simpsons		Power Rangers Dino Thunder	Gundam Seed		Aqua Teen [illegible] 2021
Cinema One	Pa-Siyam				Mano Po 3: My Love				Sagot Kita Mula Ulo Hanggang Paa				Ang Utol Kong Hoodlum				Bayaning 3rd World		
Cinemax	Terror On Track 9 (2:40 PM)			Confidence (4:10 PM)			Torque (5:45 PM)			Sunset (7:15 PM)				Something To Talk About	Run, Ronnie Run (10:45 PM)				
CNN	Quest	World News	Global Challenges	World News	World Sport	Larry King Live		World News	World Sport	World News	Art Of Life	World News	World Sport	World News	Global Challenges	Quest	Quest	Talk Asia	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart
Crime/Suspense		Mastermind	Forensic Files	Bones		Psychic Detectives	Body Of Evidence	Crossing Jordan		Law & Order		Bones		E-Ring		Wasabi			
Discovery Channel				Unsolved History		Power Zone				Unsolved History		The FBI Files		True Crime Scene		Ten Ways		American Chopper	
Disney Channel	Lizzie McGuire	Totally Spies-Double Episodes		Brandy & Mr Whiskers	Lilo & Stitch	Martin Mystery	Buzz on Maggie	Phil Of The Future	Suite Life Of Zack And Cody	That's So Raven	Wonderful World Of Disney			Mr Bean	America's Funniest Home Videos	Kim Possible	Martin Mystery	Wonderful World Of Disney	
ESPN											Sportscenter Germany	Germany Tonight	15th Sultan Azlan Shah Cup				15th Sultan Azlan Shah Cup		
ETC		Joan Of Arcadia 2		Friends 10	Will & Grace 4	Veronica Mars 2		The O.C.3		Beach Girls		Queer Eye For The Straight Guy		Saturday Night Live		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	
ETC 2nd Avenue		Trading Spouses		Today Show - 1 Hour Version		Dateline		Showdog Moms & Dads		NBC Nightly News	Hollywood One On One	Blowout 2		Inside the Actor's Studio		ER		NBC Nightly News	WSJR
EWTN	Visionaries, Mystics & Stigmatists	Chaplet Of Mercy/ Angelus	Image Of God	Adventures In Odyssey	Rosary With Mother Angelica	Knights Of St. Michael	Catholic Compass		Life Is Worth Living	The World Over Endure		Daily Mass Live		Holy Land Rosary Angelus	The Word Was Made Flesh	Voices On Virtue	Backstage	Life on The Rock Encore	
Fox News		On The Record With Greta Van Susteren		The O'Reilly Factor		Your World With Neil Cavuto		Special Report With Brit Hume		Fox & Friends Saturday						Bulls & Bears	Cavuto On Business	Forbes On Fox	Cashin' In
GMA 7	Startalk				Wish Ko Lang (4:20 PM)		Fantastikids (5:20 PM)		Pinoy Pop Superstar		Bitoy's Funniest Videos (7:20 PM)		Kapuso Mo, Jessica Soho				Hokus Pokus (10:20 PM)		Showbiz Stripped
Hallmark Channel		Mcleod's Daughters V (3:15 PM)		Fungus The Bogeyman (4:05 PM)			Fungus The Bogeyman (5:40 PM)				[illegible] (7:20 PM)			Jackie, Ethel, Joan: Women Of Camelot			Jackie, Ethel, Joan: Women Of Camelot		
HBO			Dark Avenger (3:45 PM)			Envy (5:15 PM)				Spider-Man 2				Friday Night Lights				Carnivale 15 (10:55 PM)	Carnivale 16 [illegible]
Hero TV	Mon Colle Knights	Shadar	Mask Rider Ryuki	Gransazers	Shaman King	Bucky the Incredible	Jester The Adventurer	Musumet	The X-Treme Team	Love Hina	Fruits Basket	Lost Universe	Hero TV Theatrix	Babel II	II OVA	Captain Kuppa	Mon Colle Knights	Shadar	Mask Rider Ryuki
IBC 13		Home Shopping Network		Nations Peacekeeper	Auto Review	Getzmo		Pangarap Kong Jackpot		Global Family Series		Japan Video Topical Arms		Bitag		Pilipinas Sabong Sports			
JackTV	X-Men	JLU	The Batman	Ghost	Fitter	Bottomline		Raw				Destruction	Banzai	Last Comic Standing		South Park	South Park	Drawn Together	Crank Yankers
Lifestyle Network	Living Spaces	HGTV Special		Sheila Bridges Designer Living	Radical Sabbatical	Simply Wine Andrea Immer	Inside Dish	My Country, My Kitchen	Emeril Live		Iron Chef America		Merge		Style Star	I Do Diaries		[illegible]	
MTV Philippines	MTV Hits			VH1 Goes Inside Best Awesome Movie Songs		VH1 Goes Inside Hot Movie Dance Scenes		Boiling Points		Wildboyz		MTV Live Sandwich		MTV Hits		Brand New	06 Movie Awards Nominated & [illegible]	Jams	Rockola
MYX	Pop MYX	MYX Bandarito	MYX News	MYX Presents		Take 5	Radio MYX	Top Of The Pops	Star MYX	OPM MYX	Pop MYX	MYX Live!		Pinoy MYX Countdown				MYX Backtrax	MYXLOG
National Geographic		The Living Edens Tsavo: Land Of The Devils		No Borders, Voices From Heaven			Nights with Leopard	Animals Like Us Adoption		Built for the Kill Flying Insects		The Living Edens Manu: Peru's Hidden Rainforest		Wild Sex Libido		Wild Sex The Hard Sell		No Borders Bus 174	
NBN		Teledyaryo Alas-Tres		[illegible]		Kamao		Tinig ng Bayan (Live)		Youth Voice-Debate		PCGA Dialogue w/ GSIS Pres & GM		[illegible] On NBN		A.S.K.		[illegible]	
Nickelodeon	Drake & Josh	Zoey 101	Ned's Declassified School Survival Guide	The Fairly Odd Parents Just For Kicks - New Show!	Catscratch	Avatar Legend Of Aang	Danny Phantom	Trollz	SpongeBob SquarePants	All That Just For Kicks - New Show!	Zoey 101	Ned's Declassified School Survival Guide	Dark Oracle	Girls In Love	The Amanda Show	The Brothers Garcia	The Fairly Odd Parents	My Dad The Rock Star	
PBO			Open Water								Swindler's List				Hoodlum 2 [illegible]				[illegible]
Qtv		Lois And Clark		Kaleido Star		Candies	[illegible]	Fans Kita		[illegible] Robot		Day-Off		Sabado Showdown				Groupee TV	
RPN 9		Global Window		Biyaheng Langit	Global Window	Man & Machine				Blind Justice		CSI Miami		Saturday Night Playhouse		Shepherd's Voice			
SBN 21								Sony Music Video		Sony Music Video		Oras Ng Himala		[illegible]				SBN Music Video	
Solar Sports					[illegible] FIVB '06 [illegible]		GWS 25-2006	Basketball [illegible]				OT: M.Jordan PL1	[illegible]						
Sports Plus				FIFA World Cup '06 Japan vs Brazil						World Poker Tour 2				Golf Today	Inside the PGA	FIFA World Cup '06 Saudi Arabia vs Spain			
Star Movies	Legally Blonde 2			Sister Act 2				The Last Shot (6:50 PM)			The Little [illegible] Movie			Soul Plane			Picture Perfect (10:25 PM)		
Star World		Third Watch		Miami Vice		Wild Card		Less Than Perfect	The Drew Carey Show	Gillette 2006 Fifa World Cup		TNA Xplosion		World's Most Amazing Videos		Enterprise		The Simpsons	
Studio 23								Sports TV	Survivor Panama Exile Island	Pinoy Big Brother		7th Heaven (8:10 PM)			Studio 23 Presents				

TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

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Across the NATION

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Text us your feedback: inquirer atn name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart) *Assistant Editor* **Tony Bergonia**

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Poro Pt. casino opens; Church aghast

By Peter La. Julian
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

SAN FERNANDO CITY—A CASINO OPENED AT the Poro Point discreetly, ignoring opposition from Church leaders in La Union.

The Poro Point Fiesta Casino opened without fanfare on May 2 amid opposition from the La Union clergy and other sectors.

The facility, which is part of the Poro Point and Tourism Complex inside the 68-hectare Poro Point Special Economic and Freeport Zone (PPSEFZ), houses 100 slot machines and several gambling tables for baccarat and Pai Gaw, a Chinese card game similar to the Filipino "pusoy."

The tourism complex includes a first-class restaurant, which is near the casino.

From here, the visitor gets a good view of the surrounding area as the strip of land on which it is built juts into the South China Sea.

The casino starts business at noon and ends operations at 6 a.m.

Since its opening, the casino has attracted high rollers not only from the province but from Pangasinan, Ilocos Sur and Baguio City.

But local executives, businessmen, officials and employees of government agencies based in this city are starting to patronize the casino.

Operated by Thunderbird Resorts Inc., a US-based firm that reportedly invested P1.3 billion in the venture, the casino and the resort facility employs about 300 workers.

Thunderbird, which operates 12 gaming businesses in five Latin American countries, also owns the Fiesta Casino and Resort in Rizal.

Bishop Artemio Rillera, of the Diocese of San Fernando, slammed the casino operation.

Rillera said it would only spawn "untold evils" like prostitution, drug abuse, sexually transmitted diseases, crimes like robbery and the destruction of family values.

"There can never be a justification for promoting gambling under the pretext of generating jobs for the unemployed," he said, echoing the pastoral letter issued by the diocese last year.

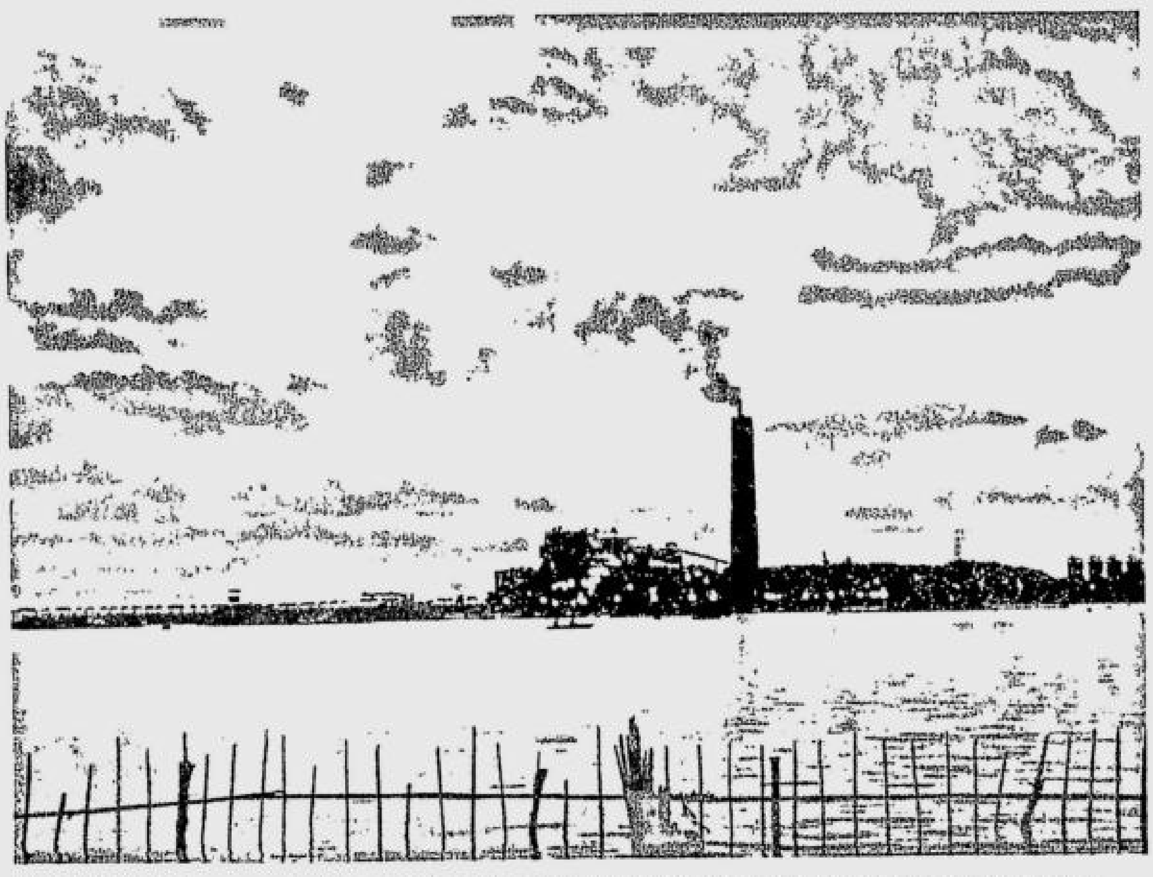
Rillera said progress could be achieved in other areas that need to be explored "for the sake of providing job opportunities and uplifting the living conditions of the poor."

He lamented that the operation of the casino proceeded despite his meeting with President Macapagal-Arroyo in Malacañang last year seeking to stop its operation.

The INQUIRER, since last week, tried but failed to contact officials of the Poro Point Management Corp., which manages the PPSEFZ, for comment.

Controversy-ridden coal power plant splits townsfolk

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk



BLACK SMOKE comes out of the coal-fired Masinloc plant, an indication of the problems it faces from environment groups and the controversy that currently envelops it over alleged bidding irregularities.

PHOTO FROM GREENPEACE

MASINLOC, ZAMBALES—"WE made an asset inventory," said one of two Asian-looking executives as they hailed past two flights of stairs at the administration building of the Masinloc Coal-Fired Thermal Power Plant (MCFTPP) here on Thursday.

"We're from Ranhill," the other executive snapped back, referring to the Malaysian company Ranhill Berhad.

That was all that they wanted to say in a chance meeting with the INQUIRER. They both clammed up, clutched their hard hats and walked away, begging not to speak on the controversy that has gotten Ranhill's partner, the YNN Pacific Consortium, into a mess when it won the bid to buy for $562 million (P29.89 billion) the 600-megawatt (MW) facility that they just inspected.

Ranhill, obviously, did not back out from doing an accounting of the power plant's assets even as the day before that, the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan filed a graft case against six Cabinet members sitting in the board of the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. (PSALM).

PSALM supervised the bidding of the biggest asset that the government placed on the auction block in 2004.

In another room, an engineer who has worked at the MCFTPP since the state-owned National Power Corp. (Napocor) commissioned this in 1998 viewed the Ranhill team's arrival as an indication there really was a "potential buyer at last."

YNN, as far as that engineer could remember, has never sent out a representative to check the facility before or after it won the bid in December 2004.

Residents split

Divided in 1993 on what to make of the MCFTPP, the people are torn again, this time about the project's future.

Some want to see it closed while others do not care who takes over as long as it does the work clean.

Andrew Edillor, who lives some 500 meters from the power plant, wished that the buyer would relocate the facility elsewhere.

"It shouldn't be here. Over the years, the smell it emits has turned foul. It's been causing us headaches, stomachaches, difficult breathing and dry throats. On some days, it lets out fine ash that's itchy on the skin," said Edillor, 35, a fisherman.

He said those incidents happened when one of the turbines poured out black smoke or when the coal stacked near the conveyors were not sprayed with water.

Edillor is worried about the health of his wife, Generous, who is pregnant with their first child. Generous said her neighbors suspected that several cases of spontaneous abortion among women in the village were due to exposure to the ash and the smell.

Leonardo Doma, Bani barangay captain, confirmed the complaints and said Mayor Jessu Edora went to the point of lending the management of MCFTPP a bulldozer to gather and dispose of the ash.

"My people were poised to stage a rally on June 12 but we decided to let the mayor act in the meantime," Doma said.

He likened the odor coming out of the plant to "a rotten egg or a burning rubber tire."

Edillor complained that the power plant has been throwing used oil on Masinloc Bay. This, he said, was why the fish catch has declined to five to 10 kg daily. To cope, fishermen venture out to other municipal waters or sail out thrice a day.

Eligio Flores, MCFTPP manager, said the ash escaped the holding area only once when a baby tornado hit the area in May and blew the fine particles in the direction of the village.

IN THE KNOW

Masinloc Timeline

2001

–The Electric Power Industry Reform Act of 2001 (Epira) mandates the Napocor to sell at least 70 percent of its generation assets in Luzon and Visayas.

2004

–Masinloc power plant was the first to be offered for sale. It was built for $530 million in 1998, has two generation units with a combined capacity of 600 MW.

Dec. 3—Only two out of 17 firms showed up for final bidding. YNN Pacific, a Filipino-Australian group, won the bid over First Generation Holdings with a bid of $561 million. The YNN was required to pay a 40 percent downpayment of $277 million or lose a $9 million performance bond.

Dec. 16—The Congressional Power Commission decides to block the sale of the Masinloc plant on the question of how a Filipino corporation with a paid-up capitalization of P600,000 (YNN Corp.) and its Australian partner with a market capitalization of only $10 million (Green Pacific Ltd.) was allowed to bid.

Dec. 22—Despite an investigation by Congress, the government awards the Masinloc coal-fired power plant deal to YNN Pacific.

2005

November—The deadline for YNN to pay the downpayment is moved to March 31.

2006

April—The deadline is reset to June 30, 2006, after Malaysian conglomerate Ranhill Bhd joined YNN Pacific.

June—Ranhill Bhd buys out its partners in YNN Pacific for $8 million. Bayan Muna sues six Cabinet members for alleged irregularities in the deal.

Mel Lawrence de Guzman,
PDI Research

Explaining the bad smell, he said this happens when the coal undergoes spontaneous combustion when exposed to the heat of the sun.

He admitted that the ash holding area had "some problems" with its air compressors. These, he said, had been repaired.

The plant burns 5,000 tons of coal daily and keeps a buffer stock of 150,000 tons monthly.

He said the MCFTPP gets its coal either from Australia or China.

The environmental group Greenpeace said samples gathered for a 2002 study showed that ash found at Masinloc as well two other coal-fired plants was "contaminated with a range of toxic and potentially toxic elements, including arsenic, chromium, lead and mercury."

Flores said the monitoring stations around the plant showed good air quality. Medical missions done in communities around the facility detected no serious ailments from among the residents.

"Our operations have caused no adverse effects on their health," he said.

Doma could not confirm this, but said many residents have been observed to be suffering from respiratory ailments or skin problems. A health survey, she said, was needed to really identify the cause of sickness among her constituents.

The economic benefits of hosting the power plant are limited, she said, with only less than 100 residents there working mostly as janitors.

Doma could not tell how much the village gets as share of franchise tax.

The Pambansang Kilusan ng Makabayang Magbubukid in Zambales has demanded the closure of the plant.

Danilo Alejandro, the group's chair, said it should have never been operated near a populated area in the first place.

Wrong things

Beyond the issues of health, public safety and environment, Napocor sources cited a lot of wrong things about YNN's cornering of the Masinloc deal.

For one, the PSALM sold it to the YNN that "did not have funds of (its) own."

This, the sources said, was obvious because until now and despite the deadline of Dec. 2, 2005 and the first extension on March 31, 2006, YNN has not paid the upfront fee of $227 million, which is at least 40 percent of the bid price.

Although YNN's first partner, the Australian Great Pacific Financial Corp., had backed out and YNN failed to deliver the payment, PSALM did not forfeit the $11.2 million performance bond and gave it another extension to pay on June 30.

Then came Ranhill

According to Napocor sources, PSALM president Nieves Osorio "probably never thought that the takeover of Ranhill from the Great Pacific was not sanctioned by PSALM's own bidding rules."

Ranhill, they claimed, changed the terms of the sale of MCFTPP, a plant that supplied the Luzon grid and not any contract in particular.

Ranhill did that, they said, by inserting a condition in the deal asking the government to get the MCFTPP a supply contract with the Lopez family-owned Manila Electric Corp. (Meralco).

"The government is incapable of conducting regular and judicious bidding process," the sources said of what the Masinloc privatization deal demonstrated to the local and international business communities.

Ties

Napocor sources said Energy Regulatory Commissioner Jesus Alcordo played a role in how YNN got the deal.

Alcordo used to be president of the Duracom Mobile Power Corp., whose chair was Filipino-Chinese businessman Sunny Sun who also heads the YNN.

Alcordo's company, East Asia Power, was said to have also paid $3 million in "success fees" to Sun's YNN Holdings Corp. when it obtained a Meralco contract for East Asia Power's barges in Navotas.

Alcordo had said he had divested his interests in those companies when he joined the ERC.

Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla, one of the respondents in the graft case, defended the sale, saying it was "transparent and fully in accordance with the law."

Flores said it was better to see the MCFTPP in a private company's hands.

ROUNDUP

Quake drill commended

SAN PABLO CITY—The National Transmission Corp.-South Luzon Operations and Maintenance (Transco-Slom) has commended the successful holding of an earthquake drill in this city. Anna Katrina Nava, of the Transco-Slom Corporate Affairs Office, who witnessed the drill, said the whole process was well coordinated among the departments occupying the city hall building.

Romulo O. Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Student slain over cell phone

COTABATO CITY—A college student was shot dead inside the "ukay-ukay" section of the Megamarket here by an unidentified man, who fled with the victim's cell phone on Tuesday noon. Sam Mundas, market administrator, said Hana Hamsay, 18, was on the second floor of the market when the suspect approached her and grabbed her cell phone. Mundas said the victim refused to let go of her cell phone. "Sensing that the commotion was drawing more people to the scene, the suspect pulled a handgun and shot the victim...." said Mundas, quoting witnesses.

Charlie C. Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau

NBI to sue Bacolod bar

BACOLOD CITY—The National Bureau of Investigation is filing charges against the owners of a Bacolod bar for the alleged employment of a minor as a sex worker. NBI Bacolod chief Philip Pecache said charges would be filed against the owners of the Diamond Angels Bar in Bacolod City for violation of the Qualified Trafficking in Persons Law and the Anti-Child Abuse Law. Pecache said NBI forces from Cebu and Bacolod, with representatives of the Department of Social Services and Development and the Department of Labor and Employment, raided the bar on Wednesday night, arrested the manager and rescued nine females working there, one of whom was later found to be a minor.

Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau

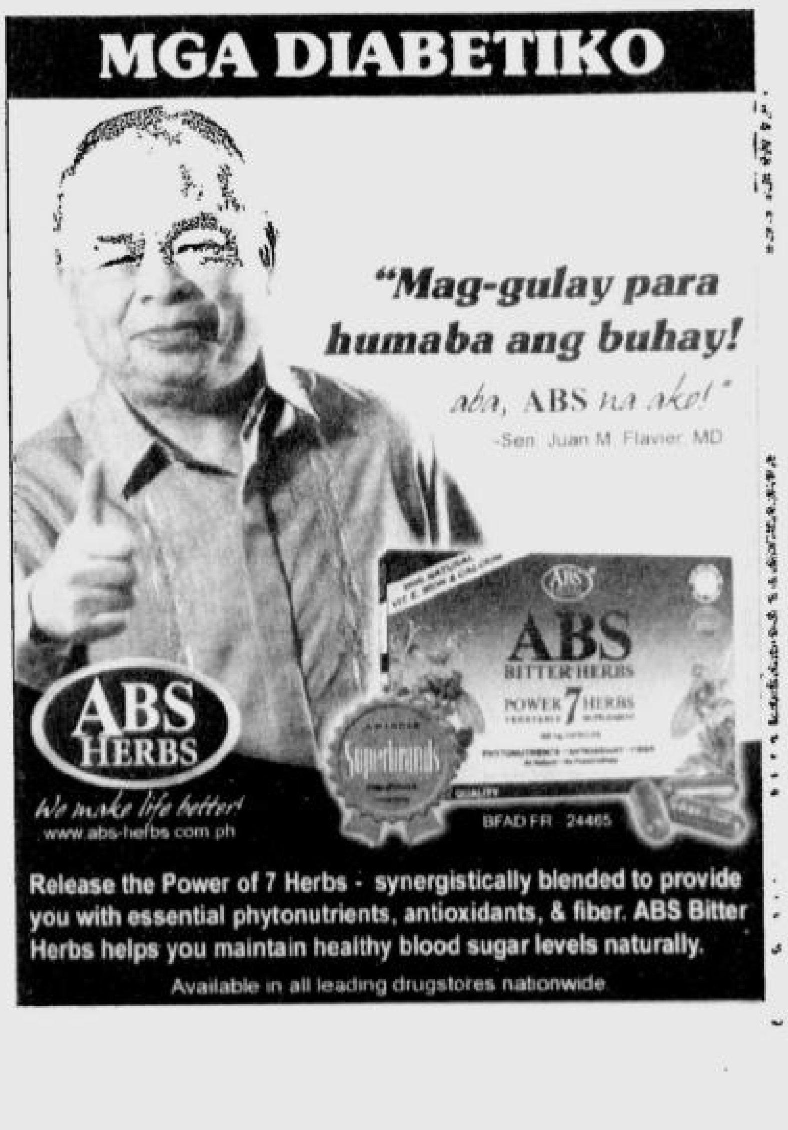
4 more medicine scholars

DUMAGUETE CITY—The provincial government of Negros Oriental has announced it is adding four more scholars to study medicine this year at the Silliman University here. The medical scholarship program was initiated by the provincial government last year in a bid to stop the exodus of doctors for higher paying jobs abroad. This brings to eight the number of provincial government scholars who are taking up the course since last year. Provincial Treasurer Danilo Mendez, a member of the Integrated Scholarship Program Committee, said the scholarship grant includes free tuition, a P2,500 a month allowance and free rooms or lodging at the provincial government's aqua center.

Romy Amarado, PDI Visayas Bureau

REKINDLING TIES US Ambassador Kristie Kenney and Olongapo Mayor James Gordon Jr. meet in Olongapo City to discuss the city's recovery following the removal of US bases in Subic.

PHOTO FROM GORDON OFFICE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"Mag-gulay para humaba ang buhay! aba, ABS na ako!"
-Sen. Juan M. Flavier, MD

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Editor **Jun Bandayrel**
Bureau Chief **Edralyn L. Benedicto**

Wonders never cease from Samar nature

By Vicente S. Labro
Basey, Samar

THERE SEEMS TO BE no shortage of natural wonders on Samar Island that new ecotourism sites would rise almost every year to accommodate nature lovers and adventure seekers who want to relish nature's world.

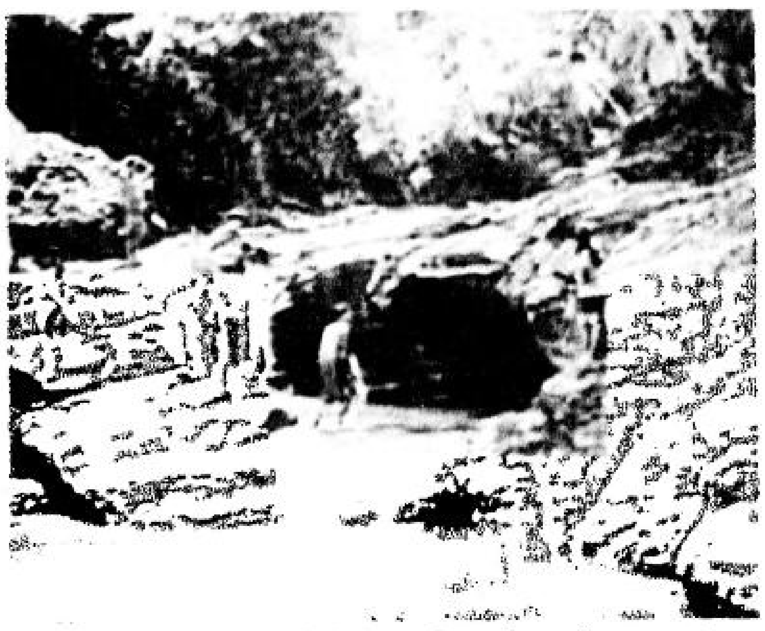
Last summer, a mountain resort operated by the local farmers' community was inaugurated in Basey and this immediately caught the attention of nature lovers. Located about 20 kilometers from the Basey town proper, the new place boasts of a tranquil and cool atmosphere beneath tall trees and beside a stream whose clear water comes from a waterfall. And it is being run by a group of villagers.

Since its opening last April, the resort has attracted a host of people who came either to just be in touch with nature or to enjoy their excursions or picnics amid the stately trees, the cool stream and the marvelous Balantac Falls.

With many people already coming to the resort, the management has given an assurance that they would never allow the place to lose its natural grandeur. In fact, their foremost concern is to protect and conserve the environment even as they continue to attract excursionists and tourists into this nature resort.

"Actually we did not plan to open the place this early, but people just kept on coming that we have no choice but to accommodate them," said Nelson Abiada, member of the board director of Rawis Community-based Resource Management Association (RCRMA), referring to the newly opened 6-hectare Balantac Resort.

According to Abiada, Samar Gov. Milagrosa T. Tan provided a funding of over P1 million for the initial development of Balantac Resort. The municipal government, headed by Mayor Vic Labuac, initiated the release of funds for the mountain resort, he added.



A DIP in a natural pool at the Balantac Resort is a welcome respite on hot days.
VEN LABRO/PDI VISAYAS

Tan and some provincial and municipal officials attended the inauguration of the resort's Phase 1 last April 19 and since then, Abiada said, people have kept on coming to the RCRMA-managed Balantac Resort.

Minimal fees, future plans

Though the construction of their single and duplex cottages is not yet finished, and they still lack guest cabins, beddings and electricity, the resort is now operating regularly, charging an entrance fee of P5 for each child and P10 for an adult, and a kiosk rental of P100.

Guests would fill all of the resort's 14 kiosks, especially during weekends, that some of the visitors would just have their picnics on grassy spots beneath the trees.

Abiada said visitors could also hold seminars and even stay overnight at the resort's two-story Tourism Center, where native products are also displayed for sale.

The Tourism Center, kiosks, and the unfinished cottages are all made of native materials. The kiosks line both sides of the stream, from near the waterfall upstream down to the lower level where a big man-made pool is located. The latter is a favorite of visitors who want to splash and swim in the cool, spring water.

Abiada said they would continue developing the Balantac Resort. In fact, he added, they plan to put up a camping site on a grassy clearing near the trees and across the stream, to put up a "green area" planted with vegetables and ornamental plants, and to construct a 1.5-km pathway leading to two unexplored caves and a hot spring.

"All these will help in the promotion of environmental awareness to our visitors," he said, referring to their planned projects.

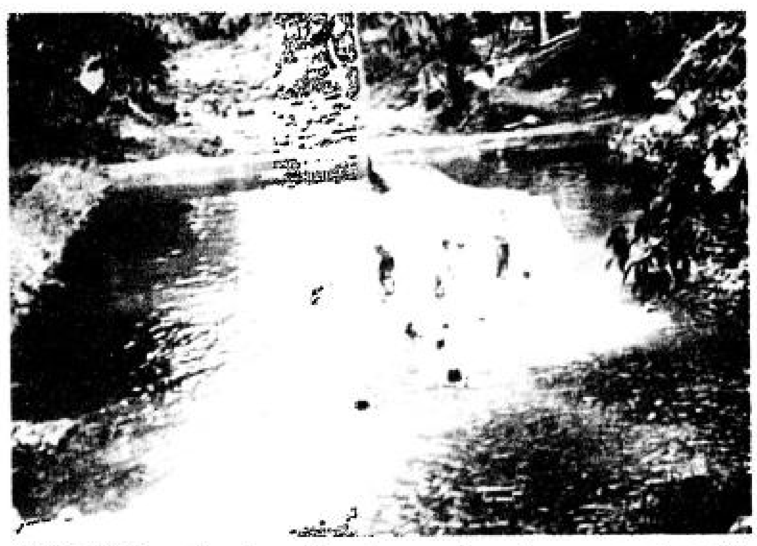
The problem, however, is funding for the next phases of their development project. "We already spent a part of the association's money during the first phase of the project and we need to replenish that first before we can finance other projects," he said.

Abiada, however, made it clear that the RCRMA is managing the mountain resort not just for income but more importantly, to preserve and protect the environment. He emphasized that natural resources are perishable and even irreplaceable once lost that they would do their best to safeguard the place.

The venture

The RCRMA was organized in 2000 with 76 members, both males and females, coming from Sitio Rawis, Barangay Guirang, Basey town. Their first venture, he said, was a 246-hectare agro-forestry project in Rawis. They had a coffee plantation and had availed of the government's carabao dispersal program.

According to Abiada, it was in the 1960s or 1970s when logging firms were still operating in the area that the Balantac Resort was initially developed as a mountain resort where logging officials could relax.



ANOTHER breather from rising temperatures is a man-made pool in Balantac.
VEN LABRO/PDI VISAYAS

Last year, some municipal officials and RCRMA members hatched the idea of redeveloping the place.

Balantac Resort became the second eco-adventure tourism undertaking of the village association, after the Rawis Cave. The cave could be reached from the town proper of Basey by a one-hour motorboat ride along the Golden River of Basey to Sitio Rawis. Its main entrance is located just about 600 meters away from Sitio Rawis.

Years ago, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources regional office based in Tacloban City wanted the Rawis Cave to become a protected area. The cave boasts of unspoiled and exquisite stalactite and stalagmite formations.

But some residents of Sitio Rawis had decided to manage their natural resources by themselves. In a public consultation about the cave, they voted overwhelmingly against the plan to declare the cave a protected area, for this would mean that the management of the cave would fall on the government through a protected area management board.

The RCRMA now manages both the cave and the mountain resort, and they share the income derived from entrance and other fees with the municipal government.

Sitio Rawis is located about 3 km downhill from Balantac Resort. In the 1960s until the 1980s the village had served as a campsite of one of the big logging firms operating then in Samar. Logging operations in the area ceased in 1989 when the government declared a moratorium on the cutting of trees on the whole Samar Island.

About 600 meters from the Rawis village proper is the entrance of the Rawis Cave. Despite the cave being near a logging campsite, only a few people dared explored the cave and this was already in the 1990s.

Villagers believe that supernatural beings inhabit the cave. According to some of the locals, early residents of Rawis saw a "*bulalakaw*" or a burning meteorite fall from the skies and soar along the Golden River before finally entering the cave. Since that incident no one dared come close to the cave until the early 1990s.

But if there's something strange inside the cave, it's about how nature was able to mold those beautiful and gleaming stalagmites and stalactites that are of different shapes and sizes.

Iluminado Duran, popularly known as Mano Lume, 59, is one of the guides available to those who want to explore the Rawis Cave. Before entering the cave, Mano Lume would first knock on the wall to announce the group's arrival. Then he would offer a sort of prayer for the "unseen dwellers" of Rawis Cave.

The first things that cave explorers would notice inside the Rawis Cave, however, are the bats. There are of two kinds of bats in the cave, the tiny bats and the larger ones. The small bats occupy some small holes on the cave ceiling while the larger ones hang upside down, also from the ceiling.

Mano Lume revealed that thousands of bats occupy another cave not far from Rawis. This bat cave was featured in a TV show, together with another nearby cave that is occupied by hundreds of snakes.

After meeting the bats, Mano Lume would lead the explorers to the underground wonders of Rawis Cave. The formations found inside the cave include a giant stalactite, a "picture frame," a statue of the Virgin Mary, a natural bathtub, and a statue of the Madonna. Other formations resemble a miniature of the rice terraces and of the Great Wall of China. There are also plenty of cave pearls inside Rawis Cave, and this shows that the cavern is in pristine condition.

Already, many people, including foreigners, have already visited Rawis Cave. Some of them said the boat ride along the snaking Golden River of Basey was already an experience by itself, and that the trek inside Rawis Cave was an ultimate experience.

The town of Basey, however, is more popular as the site of the 840-hectare Sohoton Natural Bridge National Park, which is located about 5 km upstream of Sitio Rawis.

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Drama in reality TV makes presence felt in institute

By Ma. Diosa Labiste
Iloilo City

IF "PINOY BIG BROTHER (PBB)," a reality TV show, had its teen edition, so did the annual creative writing workshop at the University of San Agustin's Fray Luis de Leon Creative Writing Institute in Iloilo City.

Nine fellows, aged 13 to 25, but the majority of them high school students, were grilled by noted writers from Western Visayas, who subjected every poem and short story they submitted to close reading and comments—some gentle, some cruel but always helpful.

As in any writing workshops, egos were crushed and years of bad English writing smashed. It was a process as stressful as joining PBB.

There were no defensive outbursts and tantrums, although one fellow was seen banging his head on the table, luckily on the cushioned edge, as his poem was being butchered. But he said his mother had warned him of a Simon Cowell among the panelists.

Write in own language

"Write in your own language. A language is an utterance of a civilization. Hiligaynon is not inferior to English," said Palanca Hall of Famer Leoncio Deriada, the lead panelist of the workshop held on May 15-19.

The workshop, now on its fourth year, aims to discover, and hone skills of writers in Western Visayas to write in English, Filipino and regional languages, such as Hiligaynon, Aklanon and Kinaray-a.

The sponsoring agency, named after the Spanish lyric poet and theologian, wants to be a "friendly and fertile breeding ground" of local writers, said its coordinator, John Iremil Teodoro.

For budding writers, joining writing workshops is one way of recognizing their talents.

This year's fellows were chosen after they have submitted four of their best works, mostly poems, that were printed on handouts without their names to spare them of immediate shame when these dissected for style and grammar flaws.

The fellows: teen edition

The fellows were Hajar Al-Abdullah, Stephanie Keiko Enarbia and Jazelle Nufable, Ateneo de Iloilo; Lawrence Anthony Bernabe, University of the Philippines Visayas; Donna I.M. Fresnido, University of San Agustin High School; Frente Sur Melliza, SPED-Integrated School for Exceptional Children; and Arlene Moscaya, Victor Robinson III and Elsed Togonon, University of San Agustin.

Aside from free attendance to the workshop, the fellows received transportation allowance and free lodging if they are not from Iloilo City. Of the nine, three are college students, five are in high school, and one had just finished Grade 6.

"This batch is the teen edition. Maybe we have already depleted the ranks of adult and older writers in the region," said Teodoro, also a panelist.

The other panelists were also noted for their works in regional languages of West Visayas, in which many were award-winning and published. They are Genevieve Asenjo, Isidoro Cruz and Alice Tan Gonzales.

As panelists, the four were thoughtful and nurturing even as they keenly pointed out the slips in techniques and narrowness of the writer's world.

One-line comments

On the other hand, Deriada, while steely and unforgiving, especially in his one-line comments, was well liked by the fellows because of his repertoire of anecdotes, English language booboos and tales of "*aswang*" and "*kapre*."

The last of the five-day workshops was the much-awaited part because medals and books were given away to the best works produced. The poetry contest has categories in English, Hiligaynon and Kinaray-a.

The winning pieces were read because, as Deriada said, the poems have to be liberated from their printed form.

The occasion was also the launch of the books of two Kinaray-a poets, Genevieve Asenjo and Maria Milagros Geremia Lachica.

Asenjo's book, "Pula ang Kulay ng Text Message," is a collection of poems in Kinaray-a and Filipino, while Geremia-Lachica's "Ang Pagsulat… Bayi," is a book of Kinaray-a poems with English translations.

The two were first winners of Fray Luis de Leon Creative Writing Grants established last year to inspire and encourage production of literary works in Western Visayas. The grant comes with P10,000 and the completed manuscript is published by the university with the label "Libro Agustino."

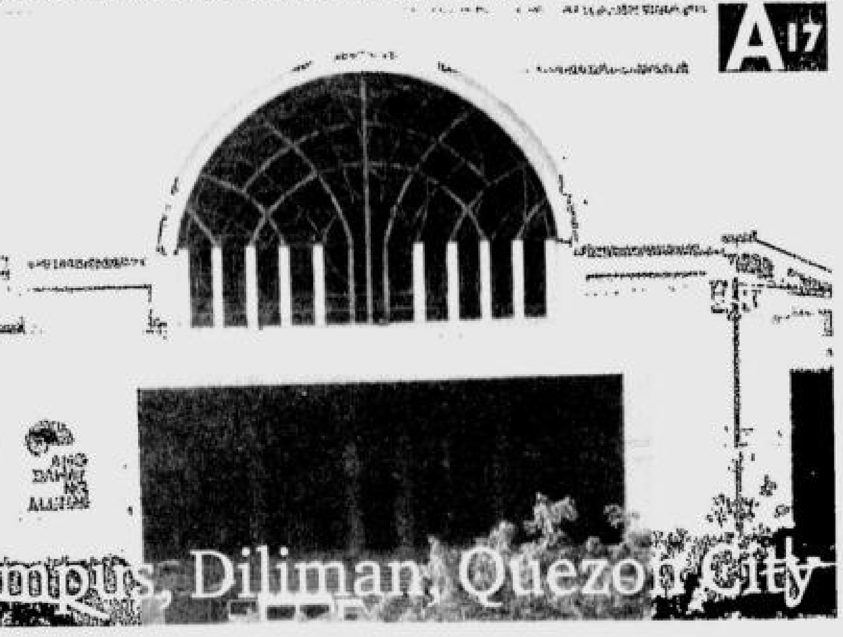
Impoverish writers

"We know very well that there is no money in writing. Writers have to work—they teach, they farm, they do PR, they sell things in the market and some even direct beauty contests in order to eat and live decently," said Teodoro.

He said the grant was a modest amount, but it would be a "force enough to make that writer produce her of his masterpieces…"

93rd UP General Alumni-Faculty Homecoming & Reunion

UP: Usbong ng Pag-Asa



June 24, 2006 4 p.m. Ang Bahay ng Alumni P Campus, Diliman, Quezon City

My warmest greetings to the University of the Philippines Alumni Association as you hold the UP General Alumni-Faculty Homecoming and Reunion.

Your theme, "Population and Environment," indicates that you are truly attuned to the needs of the times as you convene to discuss the impact of population and environmental issues in our national life. It also gives credence to our government's reform thrusts along the same critical issues.

As the bastion of academic freedom in the country, the University of the Philippines has always been known for its culture of educational excellence and its social commitment to breed future leaders of our country who are dedicated and progressive. As you rekindle the bonds that bind you to this great institution, be always reminded of our pivotal role to contribute to the public good and to the nation as a whole an advocacy which was instilled in each of us during our university years.

May you remain true to the ideals of your alma mater even as it is my fervent hope that you will support our vision to beat the odds and attain a better life for our people.

GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President
Republic of the Philippines

I would like to welcome you all to the Grand Alumni Homecoming and Reunion!

The Homecoming is not only a time for us to celebrate, renew old ties and reminisce about the good old days, it is also a time for us to stop and take a look at how the University is doing.

It is you, the alumni, that show us the real state of the University. The careers you have chosen, the quality of the lives you lead are partly reflections of a UP education. And looking at you all tonight, the fine roster that includes some of the best in the sciences, the arts, business, government and the academe, we can say that we must be doing something right.

That being said, we need to harness our collective talent and address pressing issues our nation faces today. Population and the environment are certainly matters of great concern. The continuing degradation of our natural environment, the steady depletion of natural resources, and the rise in population which means an even smaller resource allocation per person, put us all in a difficult position. Difficult, but not impossible. One thing a UP education shows us that we can find a way.

Taking up the theme of population and environment this year shows the UP alumni's commitment to this cause and with our combined efforts, we will make a difference. We have been taught to serve our nation, and so we shall.

Maraming salamat at mabuhay kayong lahat!

EMERLINDA R. ROMAN
President
University of the Philippines

Homecomings and reunions almost always evoke good memories of our lives as students - how we survived the "terrors" in the faculty of the University, how clear and clean the UP lagoon was, how fresh the air we breathed in then, how we heard daily the melodies produced by the UP Carillon and many more.

This year's homecoming theme, "Population and Environment" is the fourth of a series of population-related issues that have come to the fore. We have focused on "Population and the Quality of Life of the Filipino" (2003), "Population and Education" (2004) and "The Filipino Diaspora" (2005).

Recently, the attention of people to the world over are riveted on environment-related disasters such as the havoc that typhoon Katrina caused in the United States, the massive landslide in St. Bernard, Southern Leyte, the bird flu epidemic that beset a number of countries, and others. The Philippines is among the countries that implement environment laws aimed at reducing environmental stresses on people's lives and promoting ecosystem vitality and sound natural resource management. The University and its alumni must help the country look for solutions to such problems.

As president of the UPAA, I also enjoin you, my fellow alumni, to continue supporting our alma mater's vision of a university for the 21st century. It was through our UP education that we are now successful players in our respective fields as evident in tonight's alumni awardees. It is time that we give back to our alma mater. Let us build a legacy for future generations.

Mabuhay kayong kahat!

JAIME S. DE LOS SANTOS
President
University of the Philippines
Alumni Associaton

Greetings!

On the occasion of the UPAA Annual Reunion and Homecoming, we warmly welcome you into the campus where you spent a significant portion of your life earning an education and making lifetime friends and acquaintances.

Seeing the campus after as long will certainly flood you with memories - reliving your youth which is enhanced by the presence of your classmates and familiar faces.

I would like to thank the Chairpersons and members of the Homecoming and Reunion Steering Committee for making this affair truly memorable.

To your Alumni Awardees, Jubilarians and Guests, I wish you all a most enjoyable evening.

Mabuhay kayong lahat!

GLADYS S.J. TIONGCO
First Vice President & Overall Chair
UPAA Homecoming and Reunion Steering Committee

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From left, Rebecca Rellosa, Atty. Gladys Tiongco, Ida Vargas. Nini Jorge. Solina Iglesias, Leon Arceo, Atty. Renato Corpuz, Prof. Marita Hernandez, Regent Jaime de los Santos, Rey Velasco, Evelina Escudero, Romeo Gecolea, Gregorio Fernandez, Ruth Carpio, Annie Guerrero, Dr. Arnon Rivera and Angelito Yniguez

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2006 UPAA AWARDEES

MOST
DISTINGUISHED
ALUMNA

**Dr. Mercedes B.
Concepcion,
BSChem'51**

LIFETIME DISTINGUISHED
ACHIEVEMENT AWARDEES

Male Category

**Prof. Antonio
O. Mabesa, BSA'56**

Female Category

**Dr. Nelia P.
Cortes-Maramba,
MD'60**

OUTSTANDING PROFESSIONAL AWARDEES

Agriculture
Dr. Arsenio N.
Resurreccion, BSAE'71; MS'78

Arts & Letters
Percy J. Arañador, BS'81

Business Admin
Victor B. Valdepeñas,
BSF'66; MA (Eco)'69

Education
Dr. Lina B. Diaz de Rivera,
MAT'76; PhD'91

Geology
Dr. Ernesto P. Sonido, BSEM'50

Law
Atty. Andres G. Gatmaitan,
BSJ'61; LLB'61

Medicine
Dr. Alberto Victor D.G.
Romualdez, Jr., MD'65

Nursing
Dr. Carmencita Matias-Abaquin,
GN'62; BSN'69; MN'75; PhD'00

Public Admin
Gov. Salvacion Zaldivar-Perez,
AA'54; AB'57; BSFS'58

Public Health
Dr. Nina G. Barzaga,
BSPH'75; MD'79

COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARDEES

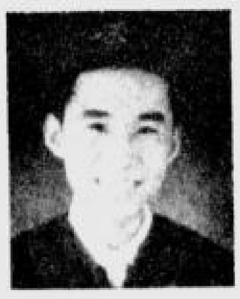
National Level
Engr. Francis Chua
(Ang C. Biao),
BSIE'72

Visayas
Atty. Romeo P.
Gerochi, BS'71

UPAA SERVICE AWARDEE
Ms. Olivia Rocha-Aliga,
BM'74

UPAA PRESIDENTIAL
AWARDEE
Amb. Lauro L. Baja, Jr.,
BSJ'60; LLB'60

OUTSTANDING GRADUATES



Male Category
Donald K. Ngwe,
BS (Eco)'06
summa cum laude

Female Category
Cherrys O. Abrigo,
BSChE'06 magna
cum laude

OUTSTANDING
ALUMNI
CHAPTER
AWARDEE

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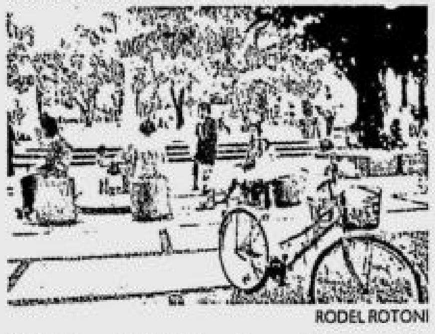
WHAT'S INSIDE


RODEL ROTONI

▨ Manila's 'redeveloped' parks now open to public /A20
▨ Slain lawyer's husband was killers' target /A20
▨ UP students protest Marines presence in QC campus /A20
▨ Police raid 5 stores selling smuggled floor tiles /A20

Customs seizes P19-M cargo in Metro, N. Luzon

Participation of insiders eyed

By Leila B. Salaverria

BUREAU OF CUSTOMS AGENTS LAST WEEK seized some P19 million worth of misdeclared used clothing, frozen pork cuts and a shipment of woven fabrics that were illegally diverted from its intended destinations.

The shipment of used clothing, consigned to Hangcor General Merchandise Corp., arrived at the Manila International Container Port (MICP) from Hong Kong. It was placed in two 40-foot container vans and was declared as a shipment of household tools and compact disc players.

The shipment was intercepted along the Marcos Highway in Benguet. It was believed to be on its way to Baguio City, which has become known for its "*ukay ukay*" or second-hand clothing stores.

The importation of used clothing is prohibited under Philippine laws.

Customs Commissioner Napoleon Morales yesterday said that the release of questionable shipments from the bureau's custody indicated that some customs personnel could be involved in the illegal activity.

Morales also said he had no problem with questionable shipments being apprehended after they leave the bureau's premises because this way, the BOC would be able to determine who among its personnel were involved in releasing the said shipments.

He said shipments that had been released are usually covered by papers that bear the signatures of the examiners, appraisers and other customs personnel, which means it would be easier to identify those behind the illegal activity.

The shipment of frozen prime pork cuts was also seized at the MICP. The shipment was declared as frozen squid, but an inspection conducted later showed it contained frozen pork. The BOC said that apart from being misdeclared, the pork shipment was not covered by a permit from the Bureau of Animal Industry.

The P3 million worth of frozen pork was consigned to Vonrik Trading and came from China.

Customs personnel also intercepted a 40-foot container of woven fabrics that was allegedly illegally diverted from its intended destination in Navotas.

According to the BOC, the shipment that had arrived at the Port of Manila was supposed to be brought to a Navotas warehouse. However, customs investigators intercepted it along the North Luzon Expressway.

Customs personnel have not yet determined where the shipment would be taken.

The shipment, worth P6 million, came from China. It was consigned to the Philippine Bonded Warehouse Services Inc.

Munti pays tribute to RP's 1st drug-free community

By Jocelyn R. Uy

ONE DOWN, 200 MORE TO GO.

As part of its all-out war against illegal drugs, the Muntinlupa government will recognize today a small neighborhood in Barangay Alabang, the first community in the country to be declared drug-free, City Hall announced yesterday.

A billboard declaring it a drug-free area will be hung at the entrance of the Highway Homes Subdivision, a village composed of 28 households.

Julie Tarrayo, an official of the Drug Abuse Prevention and Control Office, the city government's anti-illegal drugs arm, said it took them two months to confirm that the community was free from illegal drugs.

She said their office studied the profile of the community and its residents, mapped out the area and identified the drug-free homes. Drug users identified in the community were sent to a rehabilitation center before the community was declared drug-free.

DAPCO officials also conducted seminars for village residents and officers, in addition to creating an assessment team that would help the local government monitor and maintain the community's status as a drug-free area.

However, Tarrayo said the assessment team would still need to undergo rigorous training, particularly on intelligence gathering.

Mayor Jaime Fresnedi will lead the awarding of a plaque and the posting of the billboard today to the community, with the help of officials from the Dangerous Drugs Board, Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency, the Anti-Illegal Drugs Special Operation Task Force and the officials of Barangay Alabang.

Fresnedi, however, vowed to make the rest of the city's 200 communities, spread throughout nine barangays, also free from drugs.

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Manila's 'redeveloped' parks now open to public

By Tina G. Santos

INSTEAD OF HANGING OUT IN malls on weekends, Manila residents can now take their families to three parks which recently underwent extensive renovation after decades of neglect.

The parks are: the Remedios Circle at the Remedios Rotunda, Plaza Salamanca at the corner of T. M. Kalaw and Taft Avenue and Plaza Rueda, located in the southeast corner of Taft Avenue, General Luna and United Nations Avenue.

Named after the Nuestra Señora delos Remedios (Our Lady of Healing) whose image is enshrined in the parish church of Malate, the Remedios Circle had virtually become a no-man's land.

"The park used to be the lair of prostitutes, vagrants and snatchers who often victimized pedestrians and promenaders," said a resident of the once upscale and tranquil residential area that has evolved into a restaurant and fashion row.

During the Spanish era, the Remedios Rotunda had a circular fountain surrounded by *nipa*-roofed houses and banana orchards.

Prior to its renovation, huge plant boxes were scattered around an elevated concrete structure that stood in the center of the park. "We removed an elevated open space so people will not only see its charm but so we also maximize the use of the space," city engineer Armand Andres said.

The plant boxes were also replaced by landscaped pocket gardens around the circle. Benches were set up in the park while more lights were installed to discourage criminals from hanging out in the area. City officials and residents will gather in the area for a thanksgiving Mass at 7 a.m. today to kick off the celebration of the 435th Araw ng Maynila.

Plaza Salamanca, on the other hand, was named after Dr. Olivia Salamanca, one of the first Filipino women doctors. The third park, Plaza Rueda, was named in honor of Spanish poet Salvador Rueda who visited Manila in 1915. The two parks, with their landscaped grounds, benches and lights, now resemble pocket parks found in exclusive villages in Metro Manila, according to Manila Mayor Lito Atienza.

MALATE habitués will hardly recognize the Remedios Circle after renovations were introduced in the popular landmark. RODEL ROTONI

Slain lawyer's husband killers' target

By DJ Yap

THE REAL TARGET OF ARMED MEN who killed a woman lawyer and the pastor who had tried to save her could have been the victim's husband.

Evelyn Guballa, who was shot dead with Pastor Joselito Fidel in front of a church on Wednesday night, was married to Arnel Guballa, a ranking official of the Bureau of Internal Revenue who investigates tax fraud cases, according to the police. Quezon City investigators, however, said they were also looking into "many other angles," and remained tight-lipped about the probe.

Supt. Procopio Lipana, QC Police District criminal investigation division chief, said his men had interviewed Arnel, who heads the BIR's National Investigation Division which monitors persons suspected to be violating the National Internal Revenue Code. The office also coordinates with the Special Investigation Division on intelligence operations, including those involving smuggling, syndicated crimes and the use of false BIR forms.

Lipana, however, refused to divulge the details of the investigation. He said it was too early to make any conclusions, though he admitted that police were considering the possibility that the BIR official was the target. "It's hard to speculate at this point. We are looking into many other angles," he said.

Evelyn was gunned down Wednesday evening by two men after a Bible study session at the Full Gospel Pentecostal Church. Fidel died on the spot when he tried to shield her with his body. Guballa was rushed to the hospital, but she died before she could be treated, police said.

METROBRIEFS

5 stores selling tiles raided

POLICE raided yesterday at five stores in Metro Manila suspected of selling smuggled floor tiles. Agents of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group which conducted the operation said the importation of the tiles had defrauded the government of P52 million in unpaid taxes. Simultaneous raids were carried out on the El Mina Floor Center, SJA Floor Center, Commonwealth Floor and Libis Floor Center, all in Quezon City and the Cyrus Floor Center in Caloocan City. Quoting intelligence information from the Bureau of Customs, the police said investigation showed the floor tiles were illegally imported from China. "Further investigation by CIDG investigators likewise confirmed other illegal transactions committed in cahoots with Customs personnel, brokers and bank personnel from the period October 2005 till February 2006," the police said. "We have search warrants, and we want to seize documents and computer files to show validity of their importation. Our intelligence and investigation conclude that these were all smuggled," said Supt. Benjamin de los Santos, chief of the CIDG's anti-smuggling unit.

Luige A. del Puerto

Brillante vs Binay

A POLITICAL rival of Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay has accused the official of using "strong arm tactics" to discourage residents from participating in the signature drive initiated by the Sigaw ng Bayan, a group pushing for charter change. In a statement issued Thursday, Bobby Brillante, former Makati vice mayor, said, "We are deeply concerned over the extent to which Binay would go, even to the point of employing Gestapo-like tactics to prevent people from supporting constitutional change." Brillante said Binay was using Department of Public Safety enforcers "as his private army to carry out acts of harassment and intimidation to dissuade residents from signing up." The mayor, denied Brillante's claims, saying he even allowed Sigaw ng Bayan to hold a motorcade in the city around three months ago to publicize their advocacy. "So what harassment are they talking about?" Binay said. "This is the problem of the administration's local coordinators who do not know how to cover up their failure in Makati," the mayor added.

Tarra V. Quismundo

INVITATION TO BID

The AFP Retirement and Separation Benefits System (RSBS) invites interested parties to purchase by way of sealed bids the following properties on cash or term basis (minimum 30% down payment and 16% interest rate per annum, maximum of 7 years to pay):

Item No.	Description	Location	Minimum / Floor Price
06-1	259.7 sqm residential lot	No. 12 Rimas St., Proj 2, Q.C.	P 2,428,195.00
06-2	4 residential lots 300 sqm each	Bgy Pimienta, Umingan, Pangasinan	P 455,855.00
06-3	2 residential lots 500 sqm each	Bgy Prado, Umingan, Pangasinan	P 243,600.00
06-4	9,448 sqm Industrial Lot	Bulacan Agro Industrial Subdivision Calumpit, Bulacan	P 30,516,700.00
06-5	367 sqm residential lot	L12, B6, Snra. De la Paz Subd. Sumulong, Antipolo	P 892,500.00
06-6	House & Lot F/A 152 sqm L/A 208 sqm	L22, B24, Phase II, Soldier's Hills Subd., Muntinlupa City	P 707,200.00
06-7	3,000 sqm residential lot 13,000 sqm agri lot	Bgy. Canimog, Romblon, Romblon	P 1,538,310.00
06-8	House & Lot F/A 42 sqm L/A 120 sqm	L45 & 47, B4, Alpha Street Northmatrixville Subd., Caloocan	P 509,320.00
06-9	322 sqm residential lot	L70, B1-A Diamond Heights Victoria Homes, Muntinlupa City	P 547,400.00
06-10	House & Lot F/A 142 sqm L/A 134 sqm	Sapang Palay, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan	P 346,239.21
06-11	House & Lot F/A 138 sqm L/A 143 sqm	B7, L3, North Matrixvile, Camarin Rd., Caloocan City	P 963,007.50
06-12	House & Lot F/A 618.98 sqm L/A 2,607 sqm	29 Sunflower Dr, Beverly Hills, Taytay, Rizal	P 7,081,592.76
06-14	294 sqm Residential Lot	B3, L8, Filinvest, Bgy Silangan, Capitol, Quezon City	P 1,374,450.00
06-15	278,369 sqm raw land with CARP Exemption	Bgy Sulpok, Tanauan, Batangas	P 350.00 / sqm
06-16	188,351 sqm raw land with CARP Exemption	Bgy Malaking Pulo, Tanauan, Batangas	P 350.00 / sqm
06-17	106,073 sqm raw land with CARP Exemption	Bgy Dona Jacoba, Tanauan, Batangas	P 350.00 / sqm
06-18	35,138 sqm raw land with CARP Exemption	Bgy Suplang, Tanauan, Batangas	P 350.00 / sqm
06 -19	450,000 sqm raw land with DAR Conversion	Bgy Batas, Silang, Cavite (beside Riviera Golf & Sports Club)	P 800.00 / sqm
06-20	450,162 sqm raw land with DAR Conversion	Bgy Batas, Silang, Cavite (beside Riviera Golf & Sports Club)	P 800.00 / sqm
06-21	132,189 sqm residential raw land	Bgy Mapalad, Sta. Rosa, Nueva Ecija (near Fort Magsaysay)	P 400 / sqm
06- 22	17,996 sqm commercial lot	Acharon Blvd., General Santos City	P 17,000.00 / sqm
06-23	2,584 sqm commercial lot	Acharon Blvd., General Santos City	P 17,000.00 / sqm
06-24	5,065 sqm commercial lot	Acharon Blvd., General Santos City	P 17,000.00 / sqm
06-25	6,465 sqm commercial lot	Acharon Blvd., General Santos City	P 17,000.00 / sqm
06-26	2,291 sqm commercial lot (not contiguous)	Acharon Blvd., General Santos City	P 15,000.00 / sqm

Interested bidders may obtain bidding documents starting June 26, 2006 upon payment of non-refundable fee of P500.00 from the Property Management Office, 3/F, RSBS Bldg., Camp Aguinaldo, Q.C.

A Pre-Bidding Conference is scheduled on July 5, 2006 at 10:00 AM, Central Meeting Room A, RSBS, Camp Aguinaldo, Q.C.

Bids will be opened in the presence of bidders or their representatives on July 10, 2006 at 10:00 AM at the Central Meeting Room A, RSBS, Camp Aguinaldo, Q.C.

For further inquiries, you can call MS. LIZA HIZON or MR. DARWIN MANZANO at telephone numbers 9124718 or 9114071 local 249.

(PDI - June 24, 25 & 26 2006)

Why blame businesses for giving to the NPA?

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD not blame business establishments for paying "revolutionary taxes" to the New People's Army (NPA) because it cannot protect them.

Businesses and individuals who refused to give in to the extortion found their lives miserable. Their facilities were burned to the ground. In many cases, rich people who allegedly didn't give in to the pressure were killed.

Many years ago, the company that owns Bachelor buses plying several Mindanao routes almost went bankrupt. The company would not give in to the rebel demand for payment of revolutionary taxes. Almost every week, a Bachelor bus was burned.

The military and police were nowhere around whenever a Bachelor bus was razed. It came to a point where only a few Bachelor buses were running on the road. But now Bachelor buses are left alone to ply their routes. People surmise the company now pays revolutionary taxes to the communists. The Bachelor bus company is just a small business. Big businesses are big supporters of the NPA.

In Mindanao, where I come from, sources say Globe and Smart, the country's two largest telecommunications firms, allegedly give hundreds of millions every year to the NPA.

Politicians I've talked with, who asked that they be not identified, admitted they gave money to the NPA so they could campaign in rebel-infested areas.

So why should the government go only after firms and private individuals who give to the NPA? Why not include politicians who also contribute to the NPA?

Manila's 435th year marked today

By Tina G. Santos and Margaux C. Ortiz

MANILA ADDS YET ANOTHER YEAR to its colorful history as it celebrates its 435th founding anniversary today.

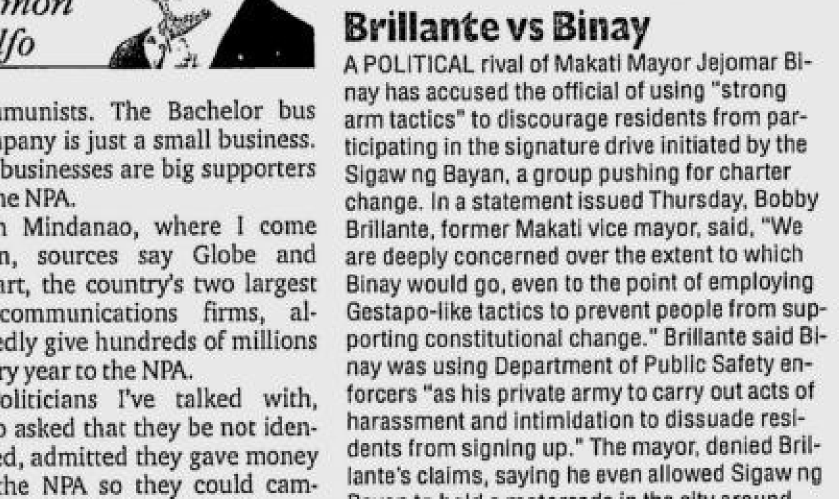
Recognizing the importance of the date, President Macapagal-Arroyo has declared June 24 a special nonworking holiday in the city.

Officials have scheduled day-long activities to mark the occasion, starting with a thanksgiving Mass to be held at the Remedios Circle at 7 a.m.

This will be followed by wreath-laying ceremonies at the tomb of Miguel Lopez de Legaspi in San Agustin Church in Intramuros and at the Rajah Sulayman Monument in Malate.

Both lanes of Roxas Boulevard, from Quirino Avenue to Pedro Gil, would be closed to traffic to give way to more festivities from 3 p.m. to 12 midnight, to be capped by a grand fireworks display. As a special treat, the entrance fee at the Manila Zoo would be waived for city residents.

To ensure that the celebration would be orderly, the chief of the Manila Police District has ordered the deployment of additional men and undercover intelligence officers in the city's key areas.



UP STUDENTS stage a protest in front of the Vanguard office in Diliman, Quezon City against the reported presence of Marines on the campus. RAFFY LERMA

UP students protest Marines presence inside QC campus

By Alcuin Papa

MILITANT STUDENTS OF THE UNIversity of the Philippines in Diliman, Quezon City, condemned yesterday the presence of around 20 members of the Philippine Marines inside its campus.

Around 200 students, faculty, and members of the UP community held a demonstration in front of the UP Department of Military Science and Tactics (DMST) compound inside the Diliman campus to condemn the presence of the Marines.

"Outright political repression is practically knocking on our doors," said Isa Artajo, chair of the Student Alliance for the Advancement of Nationalism and Democracy in UP (STAND-UP).

The militant youth group Anakbayan also expressed concern over the deployment of the Marines. inside the campus. The group said it had received a report that the Marines would replace the Special Security Brigade in charge of maintaining "peace and order" inside the campus. An active military presence in the UP portrays a twisted definition of "campus security," it added.

FBI arrests 7 linked to attack on Sears Tower

CHICAGO'S Sears Tower, the world's third tallest building. AP

MIAMI—FBI AGENTS HAVE ARRESTED AT least seven people in Miami who reportedly were plotting to attack the Sears Tower in Chicago, the world's third tallest building, officials and news reports said.

The arrests on Thursday by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, state and local authorities were "part of an ongoing investigation into a terrorist-related matter," the US attorney's office in Miami said in a statement.

Media reports citing unnamed officials said five US citizens and two foreigners, one of them Haitian, were arrested for plotting to attack the 110-story, 442-meter Sears Tower, as well as buildings in Miami.

Another person was arrested in Atlanta, according to television reports.

ABC television said the group had been infiltrated by an FBI agent posing as an Islamic radical.

"The individuals arrested posed no immediate threat to our community," the US attorney statement said.

Earlier, FBI director Robert Mueller told CNN television that operations were still taking place.

"I can tell you that we do have an ongoing operation in Miami. We are conducting a number of arrests and searches and we'll have more about that when the operation is concluded, probably (Friday) morning," Mueller said.

"Because it's an ongoing operation, I really can't get into details. But whenever we undertake an operation like this, we would not do it without the approval of a judge. We've got search warrants and arrest warrants and the like," Mueller said.

The US Department of Justice was planning to announce details of the plot at a press conference Friday.

The arrests took place in Liberty City, a poor neighborhood north of Miami, according to local and national media.

Residents said that the men who were arrested appeared to be part of a group of at least a dozen people, sleeping in a warehouse, dressing in military-like clothing and doing exercises.

CNN late Wednesday interviewed in Liberty City a member of the organization.

Brother Cory, as the black man with dreadlocks called himself, said he belonged to "Seas of David," repeatedly denying it was a terrorist group or that it had any ties to al-Qaida.

"We are not terrorists... We study and believe in the word of god. This is a place where we worship," Cory said. *AFP*

6 terrorists, cop killed in Saudi shootout

RIYADH—SIX ALLEGED MEMBERS OF THE al-Qaida terror network and one policeman were killed early Friday in a shootout in a residential district of Riyadh, the Saudi interior ministry announced.

A seventh al-Qaida suspect was wounded and captured in the dawn shootout in the Al-Nakhil neighborhood of the Saudi capital, a ministry spokesperson said in a statement, adding that other members of the security service were wounded.

"The security forces at dawn Friday pursued seven (...) members of the 'deviant minority' to a house in the Al-Nakhil district of Riyadh (...) where they suddenly came under sustained automatic weapons fire," the spokesperson said.

The police "then replied and managed to take control of the situation quickly, killing six of them, wounding and capturing the seventh," he said.

"A member of the security forces was killed and others were wounded in the operation."

The term "deviant minority" is used in Saudi officialese to designate the local branch of al-Qaida, responsible for a wave of violence that has shaken the oil-rich kingdom since May 2003.

One of the policemen cordoning off the area where the clash took place told AFP: "The group was preparing a terrorist operation and its members were being tailed on the basis of intelligence service information."

Residents of Al-Nakhil told AFP the clash started shortly before 2:30 a.m. (2330 GMT Thursday) around a villa.

"Some armed men who had barricaded themselves in the villa tried to escape but the security forces fired at them, destroying their car," said one witness.

Several ambulances sped to the scene, evacuating the wounded, the residents said. The shooting lasted about half an hour. *AFP*

COOL SHOWER
Elizabeth Monsef, 6, cools off by running through the fountains at Town Plaza Park in Los Gatos, Calif., as temperatures reached the high 90s on June 22. Hot and dry conditions are expected across the San Francisco and Monterey Bay regions through the weekend. AP

25 executed gangland style in Iraq

BAGHDAD, IRAQ—AT LEAST 25 people have been executed gangland-style in Iraq's third-largest city this week, with residents gunned down in ones and twos and bodies found scattered throughout Mosul.

Elsewhere, five US troops were killed in operations south and west of Baghdad, the US military said Thursday, and police stormed a farm and freed 17 victims of a factory kidnapping.

Mosul, 362 km northwest of Baghdad, has a mixed Kurdish and Sunni Arab population and a tradition of bad blood. The Kurds, who are largely Sunni Muslim but not Arab, have formed a prosperous autonomous region nearby after decades of oppression and mass killings under the Sunni Arab minority that ran Iraq until Saddam Hussein was ousted three years ago.

Police said they were not sure if the attacks were carried out by the Sunni Arab-led insurgency, common criminals or sectarian death squads. Increasing numbers of Iraqi deaths over the past months have been attributed to revenge killings carried out by Shiite-backed militia organizations or Sunni Arabs who have banded together in retribution.

The outburst of killings was first reported Tuesday morning when police found the bodies of a husband and wife—both Kurds—shot to death in eastern Mosul, according to police Capt. Ahmed Khalil. Before the day was out, 10 people were either killed in shootings or found dead. *AP*

Poll: Westerners, Muslims consider each other repulsive

WASHINGTON — WESTERNERS view Muslims as fanatical, violent and intolerant while Muslims in the Middle East and Asia generally view Westerners as immoral, selfish and greedy, according to a new poll released Thursday.

"After a year marked by riots over cartoon portrayals of Mohammed, a major terrorist attack in London, and continuing wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, most Muslims and Westerners are convinced that relations between them are generally bad these days," a report on the poll by the Pew Global Attitudes Project said.

In one of the survey's most striking findings, majorities in Egypt, Indonesia, Jordan and Turkey said they do not believe that Arabs carried out the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks on the United States.

The percentage of Turks who hold that view has increased from 43 percent in 2002 to 59 percent currently, according to the Pew survey, which also found that 56 percent of British Muslims share that belief.

The poll found that Germans and Spaniards have much more negative views of both Muslims and Arabs than do the French, British or Americans.

"Even in the wake of the tumultuous events of the past year, solid majorities in France, Britain and the US retain overall favorable opinions of Muslims," Pew said.

Roughly eight in ten Spanish and Germans associate Muslims with being fanatical, it added.

The report said that nothing highlights the divide between Muslims and the West more than their response last winter to the uproar over cartoon depictions of the prophet Muhammad that were published in a Danish newspaper. *AFP*

Thaksin party faces vote fraud charges

THAKSIN AFP

BANGKOK—THAI PRIME MINISTER Thaksin Shinawatra faced a new threat to his rule Friday, as prosecutors considered filing vote fraud charges against his party that could lead to its dissolution.

The Election Commission late Thursday ruled that Thaksin's party violated two laws in the campaigning for elections held on April 2 that have since been invalidated.

A panel of prosecutors was set to meet later in the day to decide whether to bring the case against Thaksin's party, which has run the country for the last five years, to the Constitutional Court.

If found guilty, the court could disband the party and bar Thaksin from forming a new one for five years—a move analysts said could plunge Thailand's young democracy back into turmoil.

"It would send Thai politics further into a tailspin," political analyst Thitinan Pongsudhirak said.

Thaksin, 56, earlier this year survived months of mass street protests demanding his resignation over claims that the billionaire politician used his office to enrich his business empire.

Despite the demonstrations in Bangkok, his popularity in rural Thailand delivered his party a clear victory in the April 2 elections that he called to end the protests.

But an opposition boycott of the polls failed to produce a parliament, forcing Thaksin to temporarily step aside.

He returned to his job last month after the courts invalidated the elections and cleared the way for new polls tentatively set for Oct. 15.

The charges accuse Thaksin's Thai Rak Thai (Thais Love Thais) party of illegally financing fringe groups to contest the April 2 polls in a bid to make the elections look more legitimate after the boycott.

TRT legal adviser Kudeb Saikrachang said the party was already preparing to defend itself before the court.

"I am confident that Thai Rak Thai hasn't done anything illegal," he said. *AFP*

Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF ISABELA
Ilagan
OFFICE OF THE BIDS & AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY & TO BID

The Provincial Government of Isabela, through its Bids & Awards Committee (BAC), invites contractors registered with and classified by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) to apply for eligibility and if found eligible, to bid for the hereunder contract:

Name/Ref.	Location	ABC	Contract Duration
01-Construction of Decaying Vault	GFNDSMH, Ilagan, Isabela	P334,414.29	30 calendar days
02-Construction of Decaying Vault	Cauayan District Hospital Cauayan City, Isabela	P334,414.29	30 calendar days
03-Construction of Decaying Vault	Echague District Hospital Echague, Isabela	P334,414.29	30 calendar days
04-Construction of Decaying Vault	Manuel A. Roxas District Hosp. Roxas, Isabela	P334,414.29	30 calendar days
05-Construction of Decaying Vault	Milagros District Hospital Cabagan, Isabela	P334,414.29	30 calendar days

All particulars relative to the eligibility, bid evaluation, and award of contract shall be governed by the provisions of R.A. 9184, otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR)

SCHEDULE OF BIDDING ACTIVITIES

BAC ACTIVITIES	SCHEDULE
1. Receipt from prospective bidders of Letters of Intent (LOI) including application for eligibility	June 26-30, 2006 at the BAC Secretariat Office, Capitol, Alibagu, Ilagan, Isabela
2. Issuance of Eligibility Forms	July 3, 2006 at the BAC Secretariat Office
3. Receipt of Eligibility Requirements	July 4-7, 2006, at the BAC Secretariat Office
4. Notice of Results of Eligibility Check	July 12, 2006 at the BAC Secretariat Office
5. Issuance of Bid Documents	July 13-18, 2006 at the BAC Secretariat Office
6. Pre-Bid Conference	July 19, 2006, 10:00 a.m. at the PGO Mini-Conference Hall, Capitol, Alibagu, Ilagan, Isabela
7. Receipt and Opening of Bids	July 31, 2006, 10:00 a.m. at the PGO Mini-Conference Hall, Capitol, Ilagan, Isabela

Complete set of bid documents may be acquired from the BAC Secretariat Office, Capitol, Ilagan, Isabela, by the eligible suppliers/dealers after payment of non-refundable Bidding fee of Php 3,000.00 at the Provincial Treasurer's Office.

The Provincial Government of Isabela reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any required formality and award the contract to any bidder whose proposal has been stated by the BAC as the most advantageous to the Provincial Government and the right to confiscate the bid bond and/or pursue appropriate legal action should the winning bidder refuse to accept the award.

Further, the Provincial Government assumes no obligations whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidder for any expense or loss that they may incur in participating in this undertaking, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) MA. THERESA-ARANETA FLORES
Provincial Administrator & BAC Chairperson

(PDI—June 18, 24 & 25, 2006)

Kagawaran ng Ugnayang Panlabas
Department of Foreign Affairs

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Government of the Philippines, through its Bids and Awards Committee for Properties in the United States of America (BAC-US), invites interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following:

A. Sale of a 444.44 sq.m. vacant lot located at 620 Terry Avenue, corner Cherry Street, Seattle, WA, U.S.A.
B. Sales of a 440 sq.m. lot, with building, located at 2728 W. Glen Haven, Houston, TX, U.S.A.
C. Consultancy Service for the development of 2,720 sq. ft. lot, with building, located at 1617 Massachusetts Avenue, Washington D.C., U.S.A.

The Terms of Reference (TOR) for these projects, may be obtained from the following offices, upon submission of a Letter of Intent, namely:

PROJECT	Contact Office	Remarks
All Projects	BAC Secretariat Department of Foreign Affairs, 2330 Roxas Boulevard, Pasay Philippines 1300, Tel. No. +63-2-8343264 Email: bfsao@dfa.gov.ph	US$200 purchase cost for TOR relating to consultancy service
Sale of Seattle Property	**Philippine Consulate General,** 447 Sutter Street, 6/F Philippine Center Building, San Francisco, CA 94108	**Submission of Bids:** 17 to 28 July 2006 **Opening of Bids:** 7 August 2006
Sale of Houston Property	**Philippine Consulate General,** 3600 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 500, Los Angeles, CA 90010	**Submission of Bids:** 17 to 28 July 2006 **Opening of Bids:** 7 August 2006
Consultancy Service for Washington DC Property	**Embassy of the Philippines** 1600 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington DC, 20036	US$ 200 purchase cost to obtain TOR. **Submission of Bids:** 17 to 28 July 2006 **Opening of Bids:** 8 August 2006

The sale and selection shall be done through public bidding. R.A. No. 9184 and its implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) shall govern the selection of the Consultant. The opening and evaluation of the bids shall take place in Manila, Philippines.

The Government of the Philippines assumes no responsibility to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid. The Government of the Philippines reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, to waive any defect or informality therein or minor deviation, which does not affect the substance and validity of the proposal.

(Sgd.) FRANKLIN M. EBDALIN
Undersecretary and Chairman, BAC-US

(PDI – June 24 & July 1, 2006)

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Quezon City

NOTICE OF SALE THRU AUCTION/SMDP

The NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY (NFA) wishes to announce to all interested Farmer's Organizations (FO's), Retailers and other interested NFA licensed wholesalers-millers that NFA will be accepting sealed offers for the Sale thru Auction/SMDP of 62,200 MT More or Less 15% brokens Imported Vietnam Rice 2006 Arrivals and 2,843 MT 15% brokens Imported Vietnam Rice 2005 Arrivals stored in Davao, Cebu, NCR Albay and Batangas warehouses as follows:

LOCATION	VOLUME	VARIETY	INDICATIVE PRICE
Cebu	5,860 MT	15% Brokens Vietnam Rice 2006 Arrivals	P 1,050.00/bg
Davao	6,500 MT	-do-	P 1,050.00/bg
NCR	46,000 MT	-do-	P 1,050.00/bg
Albay	2,250 MT	-do-	P 1,050.00/bg
Batangas	2,843 MT	15% Brokens Vietnam Rice 2005 Arrivals	P 975.00/bg

The pre-Auction conference and SMDP proper shall be conducted simultaneously in Manila (for NCR, Albay and Batangas stocks) Cebu City and Davao City at 2:00 p.m. on the following dates:

Venue	Contact Person	Pre-Auction Conference	Auction Proper
NFA Cebu Office Gov. M. Cuenco Ave. Banilad, Cebu City (for Visayas and Reg IX bidders)	Mr. Raul Chong Tel. # (032) 232-1939 (032) 232-6832	June 27 July 3	June 29, 2006 July 5, 2006
NFA Davao Office Sta. Ana Ave., Davao City (for Mindanao bidders)	Ms. Dianne Silva Tel. # (083) 554-3200 (082) 227-4166	June 27 July 3	June 29, 2006 July 5, 2006
FDC, FTI Compound Taguig, Metro Manila (for Luzon bidders)	Ms. Espie Tecson Tel.# 712-1708 712-1572	June 27 July 3	June 29, 2006 July 5, 2006

All interested bidders/buyers are required to submit the following documents

a. Original and xerox copy of NFA license (retailing, wholesaling and/or milling)
b. In case of representative, a duly notarized authorization from the owner, partner, chairman or president that he or she is authorized to represent the business entity in the pre-SMDP and SMDP proper and all activities thereto.
c. Offer must be accompanied by Bid Bond equivalent to 10% of the volume bidded in the form of Cashier's or Manager's check payable to NFA issued by a reputable commercial bank in Metro Manila.

Interested bidders may secure the Terms and Conditions starting June 27, 2006 at the aforementioned venues from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. For any inquiries, interested bidders may call the above-mentioned contact persons

Bid documents will be available during the pre-SMDP conference to qualified bidders/offerors upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P1,000.00 for FO's/retailers and P2,000.00 for other interested bidders (wholesalers/millers).

The National Food Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any formality thereof, and to accept only such bids that are advantageous to the Agency.

(Sgd.) CONRADO DL. IBANEZ
Assistant Administrator and
Chairman, Disposition Committee

(PDI - June 24 & 26, 2006)

US: N. Korea will pay a cost for launch

But Washington rules out shooting Pyongyang test missile out of the sky

WASHINGTON—THE US SUGGESTED IT HAS limited ability to shoot a North Korean missile out of the sky and spurned suggestions of a preemptive strike on the ground. Still, it warned the Koreans would pay a cost for a missile launch.

The US missile defense system, which now includes about a dozen interceptor missiles in Alaska and California and on some Navy ships, has suffered multiple test failures since President George W. Bush ordered the Reagan-era program accelerated in early 2001.

Missile defense experts disagree on current US ability to destroy a long-range missile once it is fired. But they seemed in agreement that shooting at it—and missing—would be a huge embarrassment.

A better solution, said Bush's national security adviser, Stephen Hadley, was for the North Koreans to "give it up and not launch" the missile that the US believes is being fueled and prepared. "We think diplomacy is the right answer and that is what we are pursuing," he said Thursday.

Tensions persisted over North Korea's apparent preparations to test-fire a Taepodong-2 missile amid disagreements over US military options for responding. The missile, with a believed range of up to 15,000 km, is potentially capable of reaching the mainland United States.

Pentagon officials said they were prepared to use the nation's missile defense system if needed.

Asked under what circumstances it would be used against a North Korean missile, Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld said Thursday, "The president would make a decision with respect to the nature of the launch, whether it was threatening to the territory of the United States or not, and the likely threat that it would pose."

Rumsfeld expressed no sense of alarm about the missile situation. "It's clear: All the intelligence suggests they have been making preparations for a launch of a missile from the area of Taepo Dong for some days now. There's a lot we know and a lot we don't know. So we'll just have to see."

The US missile defense program is a downscaled land-and-sea version of a global defense network first proposed by Reagan that was dubbed "Star Wars" by critics. Interceptor missiles—linked to a network of satellites, radar, computers and command centers—are designed to strike and destroy incoming ballistic missiles.

The Pentagon says the system is capable of defending against a limited number of missiles in an emergency—such as a North Korean attack. More than $100 billion (euro80 billion) has been spent on the program since 1983, including $7.8 billion (euro6.2 billion) authorized for the current fiscal year.

In the most recent test, a Navy ship late last month successfully shot down a long-range missile in its final seconds of flight. Before a successful test in the Pacific in December 2005, interceptor tests had failed five of 11 times. *AP*

Cell phone users may draw lightning

LONDON—PEOPLE SHOULD NOT use mobile phones outdoors during thunderstorms because of the risk of being struck by lightning, doctors said on Friday.

They reported the case of a 15-year-old girl who was using her phone in a park when she was hit during a storm. Although she was revived, she suffered persistent health problems and was using a wheelchair a year after the accident.

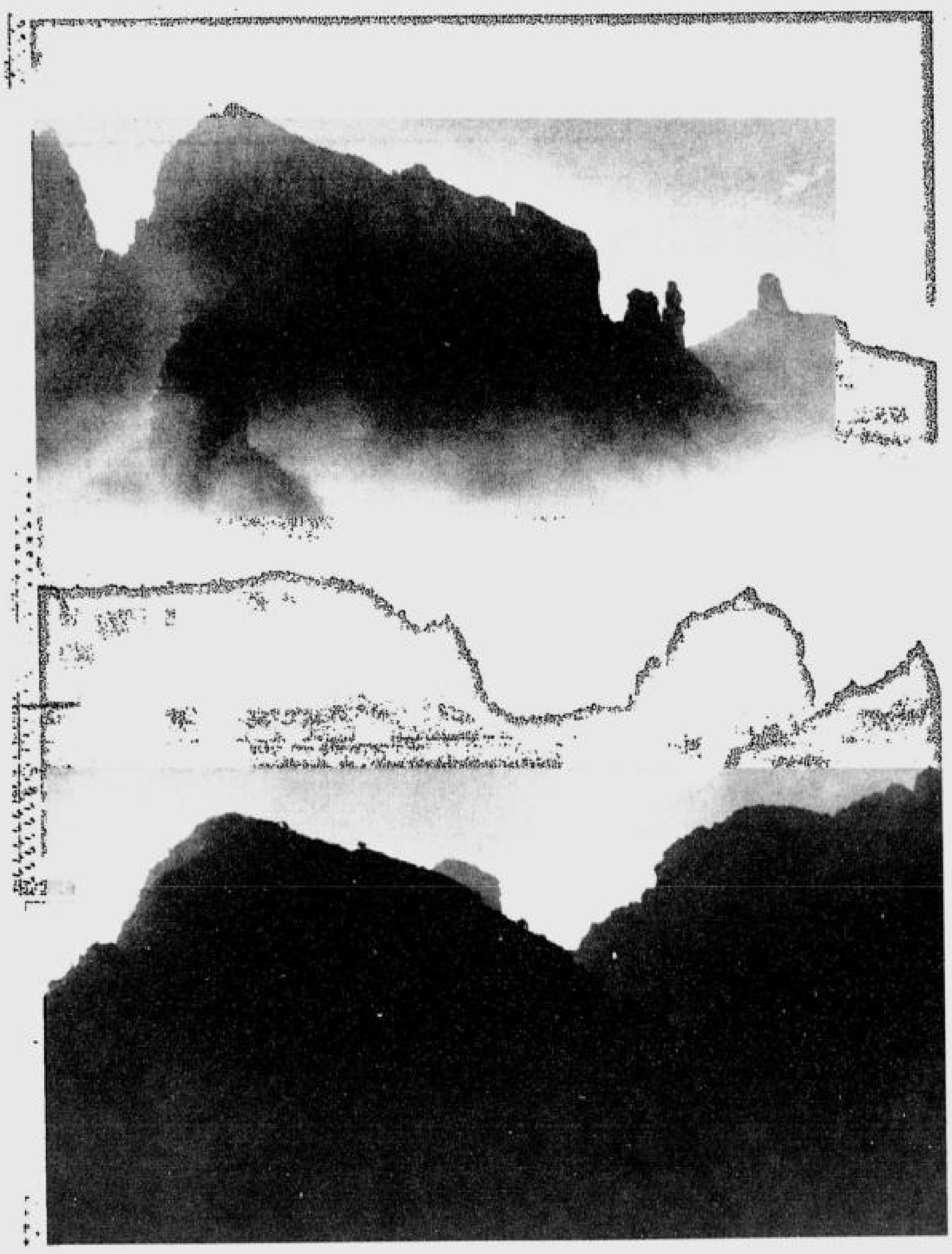
"This rare phenomenon is a public health issue, and education is necessary to highlight the risk of using mobile phones outdoors during stormy weather to prevent future fatal consequences from lightning strike injuries," said Swinda Esprit, a doctor at Northwick Park Hospital in England.

Esprit and other doctors at the hospital added in a letter to the British Medical Journal that usually when someone is struck by lightning, the high resistance of the skin conducts the flash over the body in what is known as a flashover.

But if a metal object, such as a phone, is in contact with the skin it disrupts the flashover and increases the odds of internal injuries and death.

The doctors added that three fatal cases of lightning striking people while using mobile phones have been reported in newspapers in China, South Korea and Malaysia.

"The Australian Lightning Protection Standard recommends that metallic objects, including cordless or mobile phones, should not be used (or carried) outdoors during a thunderstorm," Esprit added. *Reuters*



SMOKY VALLEY

Smoke from the Brins fire lays down in the valley near Sedona, Ariz., June 22. The blaze started Sunday in a camp used by transients and spread quickly, forcing the evacuation of about 460 homes and businesses in the canyon more than 100 km north of Phoenix.

AP/THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC

Brazil's Varig airline fights for survival

RIO DE JANEIRO, BRAZIL—THE survival of Brazil's flagship airline Varig is on the line as a group of employees scramble to raise enough money for a first payment on the carrier, which faces liquidation if the money isn't paid or another suitor doesn't emerge.

The workers' group, TGV, faces a Friday deadline to make the US$75 million (euro59.6 million) payment, but acknowledged it may not be able to come up with the cash.

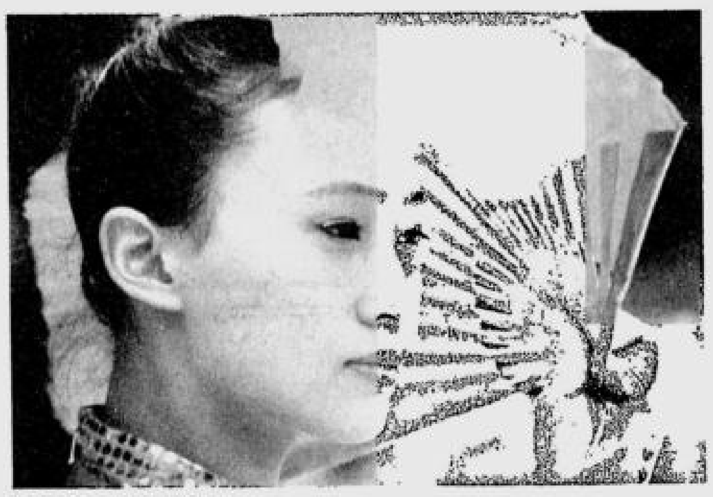
Meanwhile, Varig continued to strand passengers in Brazil and abroad on Thursday. By the afternoon it had canceled 118 of its 189 flights, Brazil's National Civil Aviation Authority said.

Other domestic and international airlines geared up to take over Varig's routes if the company is broken up, but there could be an incredible crush of people trying to get back to Brazil if the carriers can't meet the demand.

Thursday night, officials announced that there are 28,000 people abroad who have tickets to fly to Brazil on the airline between this week and June 30. Thirteen thousand of them are in Europe, many of them Brazilians in Germany for the World Cup.

But the authorities insisted that some airlines were abiding with government pleas to honor Varig tickets, making it possible for Brazilians who got stuck overseas to get home—despite delays sometimes lasting days.

"I'm not minimizing the hassles for the passengers, but in the context of an emergency plan, I think it is a success," said Milton Zuanazzi, the aviation authority's general director. *AP*



FAN DANCER

A performer dances with a fan at a ceremony to start the fourth Beijing Olympic arts festival near the Chinese Wall at Badaling June 23.

REUTERS

Japan court rejects suit on war shrine

TOKYO—JAPAN'S SUPREME Court refused Friday to award damages to critics of Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi's visits to a war shrine in its first ruling on the controversy that has set off tensions in East Asia.

Japan's top court said the plaintiffs had no grounds to deserve compensation for Koizumi's pilgrimages to Yasukuni shrine, which honors 2.5 million war dead including 14 top World War II war criminals.

Koizumi, who will step down in September, has gone to the shrine five times since taking office in 2001, infuriating China and South Korea which have refused one-on-one talks with him as a result.

In Friday's case, some 200 Japanese critics had sought a symbolic 10,000 yen ($87) each from the government for "mental anguish" caused by Koizumi's 2001 visit.

The plaintiffs, who included relatives of war dead, Buddhists and Christians, also argued that the pilgrimage to the Shinto shrine violated Japan's constitutional separation of religion and state.

But a unanimous four-judge bench led by Judge Isao Imai refused to rule on the constitutionality of the visits and said the plaintiffs had no reason to be compensated.

"Visiting a shrine cannot by its nature pressure or interfere on other people's religious life," the ruling said.

"Therefore, even if people visit a particular shrine and it hurts other people's religious feelings or makes them feel unpleasant, it cannot be seen as damage to the plaintiffs' interests and they cannot seek compensation automatically.

"There is no difference in a visit to Yasukuni shrine by a man with the position of prime minister," he wrote. *AFP*

Somalia rivals sign peace accord

KHARTOUM—RIVAL SOMALI leaders on Thursday reached an agreement to end fighting in the war-ravaged Horn of Africa country following Arab League-sponsored talks in Khartoum, officials said.

The agreement was signed after a delegation from the Islamic alliance, which ousted US-backed warlords from the Somali capital on June 5 after four months of fighting, went into talks with members of the transitional government.

The agreement recognizes "the legality of the transitional government and the presence of the alliance of Islamic tribunals," Arab League Secretary General Amr Mussa told reporters after heading talks between the two sides.

The text calls for an "end to media and military campaigns ... the pursuit of dialogue without preconditions in the framework of mutual recognition" and "the judgment of war criminals," Mussa said.

It was signed by a prominent scholar representing the Islamic courts, Ali Mohammed Ibrahim, and Somali Foreign Minister Abdullah al-Sheikh Ismail.

The meeting came after both sides held separate consultations with Arab officials—including Mussa—as well as Sudanese President Omar al-Beshir, who holds the rotating chair of the pan-Arab body. *AFP*

US gets access to bank records

WASHINGTON—THE BUSH ADministration has been quietly tracking people suspected of bankrolling terrorism through a secret program that gives the US government access to a massive data base of international financial transactions.

Treasury Department officials said they used broad subpoenas to collect the financial records from an international system known as Swift. Stuart Levey, Treasury's undersecretary for terrorism and financial intelligence, called the subpoenas "a legal and proper use of our authorities."

"Since immediately following 9/11, the American government has taken every legal measure to prevent another attack on our country," Dana Perino, deputy White House press secretary, said. "One of the most important tools in the fight against terror is our ability to choke off funds for the terrorists."

Under the program, US counterterrorism analysts could query Swift's financial data base looking for information on activities by suspected terrorists as part of specific terrorism investigations, a Treasury Department official said. They would do so by plugging in a name or names, the official said.

The program involved both the CIA and the Treasury Department.

Swift, or the Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication, is a cooperative based in Belgium that handles financial message traffic from 7,800 financial institutions in more than 200 countries.

The service, which routes more than 11 million messages each day, mostly captures information on wire transfers and other methods of moving money in and out of the United States. It doesn't execute these money transfers. The service generally doesn't detect private, individual transactions in the United States, such as withdrawals from an ATM or bank deposits. It is aimed mostly at international transfers.

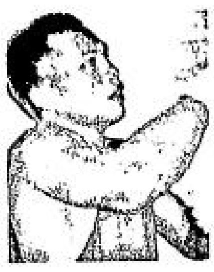
The administration defended use of the program, saying it plays a vital role in its efforts to identify terrorist financiers.

"Our subpoena of terrorist-related records from Swift has provided us with a unique and powerful window into the operations of terrorist networks," Levey said. *AP*

FLOWER CARPET

A man works on an intricate flower carpet in the town of La Orotava, Spain, June 22, part of Corpus Christi celebrations.

AFP



WHAT'S INSIDE

Suico fighting for world title; Amonsot sees action on July 2

/A24

SPORTS

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Italians oust No. 2 Czechs; Australia also advances

/A26

Yaps shine as Giants trim Aces' series lead

By June Navarro

ROGER YAP WAS THE MISSING LINK PUREfoods has been looking for in the series.

Out of his element the past two games, Yap was the glue that kept the Giants together this time for an 82-79 win over the Alaska Aces in Game 3 of the PBA Philippine Cup semifinals last night at the Araneta Coliseum.

The veteran playmaker, who only averaged five points in Games 1 and 2, tallied a game-high 19 points, his highest output in the last four seasons, and conspired with James Yap as the Giants cut the series deficit to 1-2.

"I think they (Aces) don't respect Roger," said Purefoods coach Ryan Gregorio. "They were not guarding him. Now, they will have second thoughts about him."

In the second game, Red Bull took a 2-1 series lead over San Miguel, bucking Danny Seigle's 37-point explosion to forge a 99-95 victory.

Roger Yap's floater coupled with a pair of freethrows tied the count at 74 before James Yap hit a three-pointer that gave the Giants the lead for good.

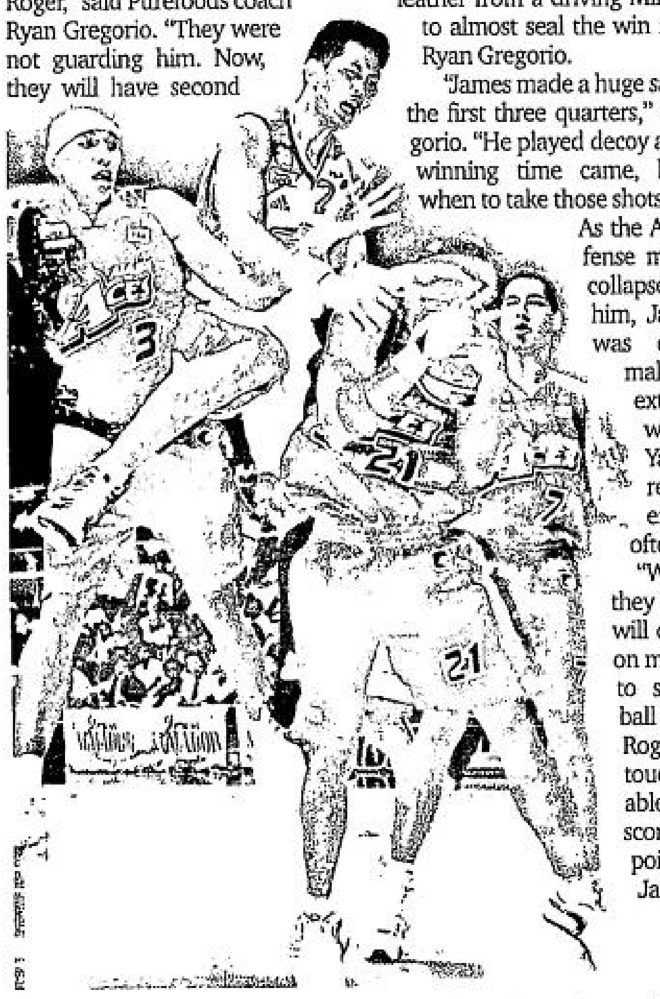
Nic Belasco sank his charities after getting a foul from Kerby Raymundo but James Yap nailed a 21-footer and Roger Yap swiped the leather from a driving Mike Cortez to almost seal the win for coach Ryan Gregorio.

"James made a huge sacrifice in the first three quarters," said Gregorio. "He played decoy and when winning time came, he knew when to take those shots."

As the Alaska defense mercilessly collapsed on him, James Yap was quick to make that extra pass with Roger Yap on the receiving end more often.

"We knew they (Aces) will double up on me so I had to swing the ball over to Roger. Those touches enabled him to score more points," said James Yap in Filipino.

Winning Game 3 though was not only a shift of momentum for the Giants. It beckoned images of the 2002 Governors Cup Finals which Gregorio and the Giants won by clawing out of a 0-2 hole.



PUREFOODS' Kerby Raymundo collars the rebound off a phalanx of Alaska big men. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

The scores:

First Game

PUREFOODS 82—Yap R 19, Yap 15, Limpot 15, Raymundo 11, Simon 8, Pingris 4, Evangelista 4, Yee 4, Artadi 2, Castillo 0.

ALASKA 79—Cortez 18, Belasco 17, Cariaso 10, Hugnatan 8, Dela Cruz 8, Miller 7, Wilson 6, Thoss 4, Ferriols 1, Laure 0, Bajar 0.

Quarters: 17-13, 34-29, 56-59, 82-79

Second Game

RED BULL 99—Tugade 15, Villanueva 14, Robinson 13, Bugia 11, Pennisi 11, Najorda 10, Baguio 10, Cruz 7, Valenzuela 4, Alvarez 3, Fonacier 1.

SAN MIGUEL 95—Seigle 37, Hontiveros 13, Ildefonso 13, Gonzales 11, Peña 9, Racela 8, Calaguio 3, Cablay 1, Adriano 0.

Quarters: 25-13, 42-44, 67-75, 99-95

GAMES TOMORROW
(*Araneta Coliseum*)
4:10 p.m.—Red Bull vs San Miguel Beer
6:35 p.m.—Purefoods vs Alaska

NCAA kicks off today; Baculi bolts Dolphins

GAMES TODAY (*Araneta Coliseum*)
12 noon—Opening Ceremonies
2 p.m.—St. Benilde vs Letran (Srs)
4 p.m.—Mapua vs PCU (Srs)
6 p.m.—San Sebastian vs UPHD (Srs)
8 p.m.—Jose Rizal vs San Beda (Srs)

By Marc Anthony Reyes

TOP AMATEUR AND COLLEGIATE coach Junel Baculi bolted the Philippine Christian University on Thursday, rocking the NCAA men's basketball hours before it unveils its 82nd season at the Araneta Coliseum today.

League officials refused to give details, although they promised to issue a formal statement just before defending champion Letran and host St. Benilde open hostilities at 2 p.m.

Baculi steered the Dolphins to a runner-up finish last year after they set a milestone for winning the 2004 title through the efforts of coach Ato Tolentino and prized forward Gabby Espinas.

PCU will now enter the 4 p.m. tussle against Mapua without a head coach, although assistant coach Joel Dualan is expected to call the shots temporarily.

Baculi was the third coach to have jumped ship before the season began, following Cris Calilan of Jose Rizal University and Turo Valenzona of San Sebastian.

Calilan, who was part of the school's last championship in 1972, didn't offer an explanation. He was replaced Ariel Vanguardia, a former member of the Talk 'N Text coaching staff in the PBA.

Valenzona has since given up the reins to his son Raymund.

Eight teams see action after the lunchtime opening ceremony with the Knights expected to come out strong in their quest for back-to-back championships.

San Sebastian collides with University of Perpetual Help System-Dalta at 6 p.m., while Jose Rizal U meets San Beda at 8 p.m.

With the theme "Proud and True at 82: Blazing Beyond Limits," the season will be ushered in by keynote speaker Jose "Peping" Cojuangco, president of the Philippine Olympic Committee.

Special guests include Philippine Sports Commission chair William "Butch" Ramirez and Presidential Adviser on Youth and Sports Ali Atienza, and members of the NCAA policy board headed by Bro. Dodo Fernandez, FSC.

"We've been waiting for this opportunity to host the NCAA, that's why we really prepared hard for the opening," said Management Committee chair Bernie Atienza of St. Benilde.

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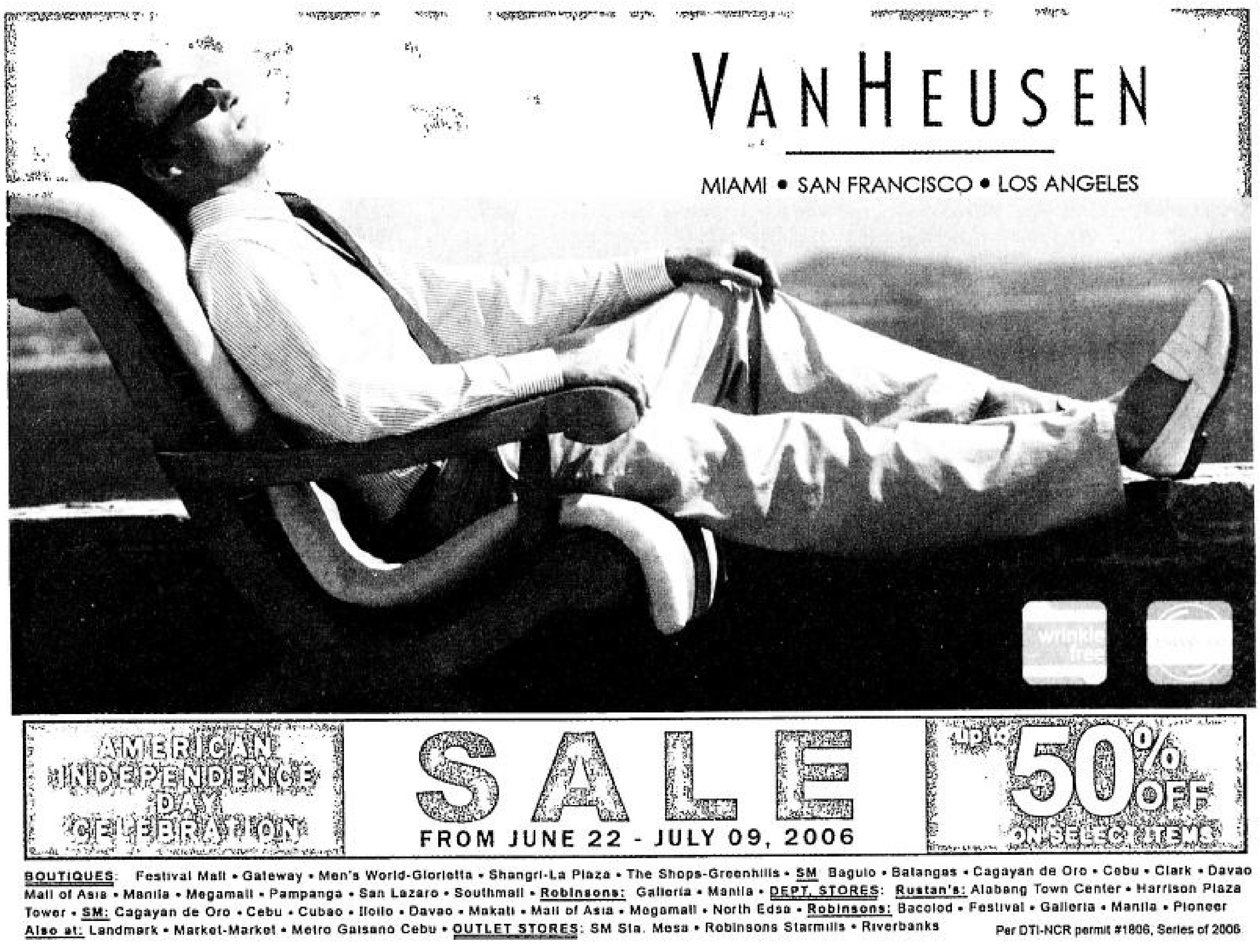

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PFF told: Explain how ₱88M was spent

By Musong R. Castillo

THE NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION FOOTBALL Association, in trying to exercise its rights as a stockholder of the Philippine Football Federation, has again been prevented from finding out where an P88 million budget from Fifa, the world football body, has gone.

An accountant accompanied by NCRFA officials yesterday failed to enter the PFF offices at the PhilSports Complex in Pasig after the federation declared a "holiday" for its employees for the day.

The NCRFA had written the PFF a letter dated June 15, informing the federation of its desire to have the financial records audited on suspicion of anomalous transactions entered into by the PFF in the last three years.

NCRFA representatives Mon Jose, Robbie Sandejas and auditor Bonifacio Santiago were all informed by Ultra security personnel of the "holiday" declared by PFF secretary Jennifer Hernandez on Thursday.

Security guard Ruby Aducot said Hernandez did not give a reason for the holiday.

The INQUIRER tried to get the side of PFF president Johnny Romualdez and the association's public relations man, Ed Formoso, through text messages that were left unanswered.

The INQUIRER, though, learned that Romualdez rejected the NCRFA request on June 21, citing the absence of a valid reason to have the books opened.

But NCRFA president Jose Vito Borromeo argued that being "stockholders of the PFF, we are entitled to see the books anytime we wish."

Borromeo, who has been at odds with Romualdez, said that his association's suspicions started after the Feb. 25 football congress in Iloilo where the PFF declared expenses amounting to a combined P88 million from 2003 to last year.

"We are just wondering how all the money was spent," Borromeo told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview. "We just want the truth. And if the PFF is not hiding anything, then why not let the auditor do his job and make everyone see (the books)?"

Borromeo also said that the development yesterday has left him, and 50 percent of the 28 football associations under the PFF umbrella—which he claims are backing the NCRFA—with no other option but to seek the intervention of the courts.

"It (audit) is our right because we are incorporators of the PFF," Borromeo said.

Suico fighting for world title

Amonsot sees action on July 2

By Salven L. Lagumbay, *Contributor*

CEBU CITY—WORLD-RANKED RANDY SUICO, originally scheduled to see action in the Manny Pacquiao-Oscar Larios undercard, has been chosen to challenge World Boxing Association lightweight champion Juan Diaz on July 15 at the MGM Grand Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas.

Suico, currently training in Tokyo for the July 2 fight at the Big Dome, will have to get back to the country on Sunday to work out his visa requirements in time for the July 15 world title break, said Rex "Wakee" Salud, an associate of Suico's Japanese manager Joe Koizumi.

Set to replace Suico in the "Mano-A-Mano" card is the equally popular Czar Amonsot, who holds the WBO Asia Pacific super-featherweight crown. Amonsot takes on Mexican Silverio Ortiz in a 10-round non-title bout.

Cebuano boxing patron Antonio Aldeguer yesterday confirmed that Amonsot would be replacing Suico.

Amonsot (16-1-1, 10 KOs), who is fresh off two major victories in Las Vegas, will add luster to the Pacquiao-Larios encounter.

Salud, who is arranging the lineup of big card at the Araneta Coliseum, has also confirmed Amonsot's participation, indicating that the Tagbilaran City fighter will be a big plus for the boxing extravaganza.

ABLE REPLACEMENT: WBO Asia Pacific super-featherweight champion Czar Amonsot works out in Cebu City. CDN PHOTO/LARRY BALANAY

Asi, RenRen, Alapag can't go to Jones Cup

IN HUDDLE

Beth Celis

IT'S BEEN A BUSY, most interesting week for me. I had the opportunity to meet and have a long chat with sports-showbiz couple James Yap and Kris Aquino who, I discovered, are both very easy to like; I got the chance to sit down with Welcoat owners Terry Que and Raymond Yu to discuss their "wish list"; I got to interview Ateneo head coach Norman Black and team manager Paolo Trillo regarding the Ateneo Blue Eagles' preparations for the 2006 UAAP season; I got to attend Harbour Centre's extended victory celebration twice; and I had a long talk with PBA vice chair Ricky Vargas on his team's rehab plans for the 2006-07 PBA season.

Gosh, I almost forgot. I also had the chance to revisit Eugene Tejada at the Makati Medical Center (he said he was still feeling "the same")and say "*ciao*" to his agent Bobby Rius, who was returning to San Francisco that day. Plus, I had a short interview with Purefoods cager and MVP aspirant Kerby Raymundo about his team's chances of making the finals despite trailing Alaska, 0-2, in the ongoing PBA Philippine Cup best-of-seven semifinal series.

* * *

Like teammate James Yap, Kerby is confident that the Giants would get back on track in Game 3 (yesterday).

"We just have to make minor adjustments. We studied the videotapes of Games One and Two and have realized that our mistakes are basic, *madaling maitama*," Kerby said.

Both he and James agree that the long layoff may have also contributed to the Giants' lethargy.

"*Nagka*-inertia. But after two games, *tanggal na ang kalawang*," James said.

James and Kerby are No. 1 and No. 3, respectively, in the MVP statistical race after the quarterfinals. Red Bull's Enrico Villanueva is in second place, Ginebra's Mark Caguioa No. 4 and Lordy Tugade No. 5.

* * *

Because of his team's dismal performance this conference, TNT's Ricky Vargas and the coaching staff have drafted an intensive training program for the Phone Pals during the off-season.

On July 12, the team will fly to Los Angeles to compete in a summer league which will include a strong squad from China. From there, the team will undergo special training under American experts.

The Phone Pals will be out of the country from July 12 up to the first week of August. The conflict in schedule will not allow the three national cagers—Asi Taulava, Jimmy Alapag and RenRen Ritualo—to join the RP team in the Jones Cup and the Sultan's Cup in Brunei, which means coach Chot Reyes will have to make some adjustments.

"Our schedules have been firmed up way before we were informed about these overseas tournaments. We've booked for air travel, lodgings and have paid the fees," explained Ricky.

* * *

Welcoat's Terry Que made a rare appearance with partner Raymond Yu and Harbour Centre's Mikee Romero at the PSA Forum last Tuesday, and to everyone's delight, the mike-shy team owner even spoke a few words to the audience who wanted to know if Welcoat was ready for the PBA.

"*Handang-handa na!*" Terry uttered. Behind the microphone, he was stingy with words.

Later over lunch, Terry said that minus the mike, he was not that shy.

"The truth is, we are not really that ready yet, if we're talking about the lineup. We're still wracking our brains on how we can form a respectable team," Terry said.

He and Raymond's greatest fear is that the Paintmasters might get clobbered every game. Welcoat was allowed to elevate three players from their amateur team. The teams are protecting 10 players to give way to the expansion draft.

If they had a choice, Terry and Raymond would like to form their PBA squad around the Welcoat cagers who are now in the PBA. These are: James Yap, Rommel Adducul, Yancy de Ocampo, Don Allado, RenRen Ritualo, Marc Pingris, Celino Cruz, Earvin Soto, Willie Wilson, Nelbert Omolon and Ronald Tubid.

"That's our wish list," chorused Raymond and Terry.

Xavier, Ateneo dispute Adidas futsal lead

IT WILL BE A CLASH OF TITANS WHEN XAVIER Alumni Football Club and the Ateneo booters dispute the solo lead in men's 2nd Division-A at the resumption of the 2006 Adidas Futsal Championship today at the FMAC Gym in La Salle Green Hills in Mandaluyong City.

Xavier and Ateneo share the lead with two wins apiece, although Xavier has the edge in goal difference going into the fourth week of this tournament sponsored by Adidas and held in cooperation with the National Capital Region Football Association (NCRFA).

The co-leaders collide at 3 p.m., right after the 2 p.m. match between Los Borrachos and Union FC, which both tote 1-0 cards in men's 2nd Division-B.

AFP Selection (0-1) and Marines (0-1) clash at 4 p.m., each hoping to make it to the win column.

In the lone women's game slated at 4 p.m., Archers 650 tests the mettle of Vintage FC with the former La Salle collegiate stars gunning for their third victory in four starts. Vintage is looking to improve its 1-1 mark.

Air Force, the solo leader in men's 1st Division with a 2-0 card, battles Navy (0-1-1) at 6 p.m., while Pasargad (0-1-2) and Kaya FC (1-1) cap the hostilities at 7 p.m.

The tournament moves to the Adidas SportsKamp tomorrow with another heavy, seven-game schedule.

Figueroa takes recurve crown; Tabañag scores

OLONGAPO CITY—ATHENS OLYMPIAN JASMIN Figueroa flashed her old deadly form to emerge as national target archery champion for the second straight year Thursday in the Philippine Olympic Festival's archery event at the Subic Bay Freeport Football field here.

"I'm overjoyed, although I initially felt a bit nervous," said the 20-year-old Figueroa after keeping the women's recurve title by beating newcomer Emily Mae Yap of Cebu, 98 points to 89, in the Olympic round finals.

Rachelle Anne Cabral, 23rd SEAG bronze medalist, finished third.

Four-year-old Jamaila Mikhail F. Inductivo, the youngest archer in NAAP's 45-year-history, copped two golds for winning the qualifying and Olympic Rounds. Inductivo topped the novice class with 63 points.

Veteran Joann Tabanag ruled the adult compound over Jennifer Chan via a tiebreak after the two had finished with identical 108 points.

The other winners were Janet Bermas (81 points), Leina May Bolina (103), Lourdes May Bellona (79) and Ana Mariel Inton (96) in the Fita competitive, junior standard and Cadet divisions, respectively.

Dimakiling tops chess tilt

TAGAYTAY CITY—INTERNATIONAL MASTER OLIVER Dimakiling bucked a sluggish start then got lucky in the tiebreak to rule the 2006 National Chess Open Blitz Championship Thursday at the Tagaytay International Convention Center. The 2005 Southeast Asian Games double silver medalist halved the point with IM Richard Bitoon in the 11th round to amass 8.5 points. He actually finished tied with Bitoon and fellow IM Ronald Dableo. Dimakiling, however, registered superior tiebreak points (54.25 Sonnen Burger) to top the meet organized by the National Chess Federation of the Philippines as part of the inaugural staging of the Philippine Olympic Festival. In close second was Bitoon (51.25 SB) while Dableo settled for third (48.50 SB). Dimakiling won the P10,000 top prize.

Spring, Tagaytay cagers advance

SPRING COOKING OIL-PARAÑAQUE and Batang Tagaytay triumphed anew Thursday to storm into the national crossover semifinals of the Guerrero Brandy-NBC basketball championship.

The Cooking Oil Masters of NBC president Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla and Vice Mayor Anjo Yllana outlasted the Pangasinan Hundred Islands, 73-65, at the Lyceum gym while the Tagaytay cagers of NBC executive vice president and Mayor Bambol Tolentino overpowered Bacchus/Harbour Centre-Manila, 92-87, before a huge crowd at Tagaytay's International Convention Center.

Nani Epondulan poured in 25 points but it was Larry Rodriguez's fourth-quarter heroics that enabled the Cooking Oil Masters to sweep the series with Pangasinan in the tournament.

With the Pangasinenses leading 60-56, early in the final period, Rodriguez ignited a 14-0 run to help Spring-Parañaque pull away, 70-60, going into the last two minutes.

Arden Guiyab and Nino Marquez combined for 53 points to propel Tagaytay to victory at home.

The scores:

SPRING 73—Epondulan 25, Rodriguez 10, Morante 6, Manuel 6, Capobres 6, Yambao 6, Yee 5, Ortiguerra 4, De Castro 2, Soriano 2, Inigo 1, Reyes 0, Tiongco 0, Barnson 0, Lazaro 0.

PANGASINAN 65—Araman 19, Aquino 13, Lopez 11, Tolentino 9, Tiongson 4, Yambao 4, Balares 3, Ico 2, Ruiz 0.

Quarters: 19-23, 44-42, 56-55, 73-65

* * *

TAGAYTAY 92—Guiyab 30, Marquez 23, Robillos 12, Genido 5, Finuliar 5, Caceres 5, Mendoza 4, Reyes 4, Mallari 4.

BACCHUS/HARBOUR 87—Beunafe 23, Cuevas 12, Coyukang 12, Retaga 11, Membrere 7, Reroma 7, Gamboa 7, Aquino 3, Sta.Cruz 3, Hardin 2.

Quarters: 35-29, 51-41, 73-67, 92-87

AND THEY'RE OFF: Hundreds of runners answer the starting gun in the Olympic Day Run at the Adidas SportsKamp at The Fort in Taguig City recently. Cresencio Sabal of the Philippine Army clocked 33 minutes and 47 seconds to rule the 10K competition of the event, which was part of the just concluded Philippine Olympic Festival. The age-group champions were Aljean Diente and Macrose Dichoso (18 and under); Gerald Sabal and Mirasol Abad (19 to 25); Roger Sawinay and Genevieve de la Pena (26 to 35); Reynaldo de los Reyes and Delma Ocariza (36 to 45) and Diosdado Labardor (46 to 55).

NBC Selection to defend title in Thai Prince Cup

THE NATIONAL BASKETBALL CONFERENCE (NBC) Selection will go all out to defend its title when it competes in the 10th Crown Prince Cup invitational basketball tournament in Songkha, Thailand, on June 26 to July 2.

Backed by Spring Cooking Oil, the team will be bannered by NBC's outstanding players.

Five Spring mainstays—pre-season MVP Marlon Yambao, Mar Reyes, Danny Capobres, Larry Rodriguez and Marvin Ortiguerra—join Iligan's Marlon Kalaw and Ronnie Matias, Toyota-Iloilo's Eldrin Senierez and Ozamiz Cotta's Gerry Cavan and Boyet Guerrero in the squad.

Spring-Parañaque mentor Efren "Yong" Garcia will handle the team together with Iligan's Jun Longalong and Ozamiz's Albert Calvo.

Challenging the Filipinos are the national teams of Thailand and Singapore, Hong Kong, South Korea's top collegiate team and three club teams from India and Japan.

Last year, the NBC Selection coached by Jun Noel, Al Solis and Vic Sanchez swept the crown.

Tougher San Mig Light Enduro race slated

SAVING ITS BEST FOR LAST, THE Enduro San Mig Light Adventure Series 2006 draws to a close on July 7 and 8 with the concluding leg in Metro Manila.

The series wound up its final provincial sorties in Davao City on June 10 after holding the races in Cebu City on May 27.

Eduro organizers said the racers in Metro Manila will have to beat the traffic and pollution while vying for top honors in the gruelling leg.

San Mig Light, the biggest supporter adventure racing in the country, is inviting race enthusiasts and sports aficionados to take part in the annual endurance event.

Two categories will be staged on separate dates. The championship in the 24-hour elite category event, to be flagged off on July 7, will be disputed by hard-core athletes and professional adventure racers. The champion will receive P75,000 while the runner-up gets P30,000.

The Novice Category, which will be held the next day, is expected to be just as exciting with the champion taking home P15,000 and the second placer P10,000.

"The Manila leg will definitely be more exhilarating than the first two legs of this race," race director Rene "Neyney" Guevarra said. "The race will be filled with variations and surprises that would make the trials more thrilling than the next."

The novice race will test the skills of yuppies, weekend warriors, students and outdoor adventure enthusiasts in a lung-busting four- to six-hour race.

Interested participants may call the Enduro hotline at (632) 414-1489 or log on to www.sanmiglight.com.ph for race details.

Devance did not snub RP team, says Toyota Otis

FIL-AM JOE DEVANCE WASN'T REMISS ABOUT HIS national team duties. Toyota Otis team owner Gil Angeles clarified yesterday that Devance intended to suit up for the RP team, but had to fly back to the United States to attend to his ailing mother. "He had to go home as soon as possible because his mother will be undergoing open heart surgery," said Angeles. He left on June 20. Coach Chot Reyes invited Devance, the Philippine Basketball League's MVP, to be part of the national pool that will compete in the Jones Cup on July 8-16 in Taiwan. But early reports claimed Devance left for Texas after Toyota Otis lost to Harbour Centre in the PBL title series. *Jasmine W. Payo*

Adamson tests mettle of Lyceum

ADAMSON, ALREADY ASSURED OF A PLAYOFFS BERTH, GETS TO sharpen its skills against pesky spoiler Lyceum today in the penultimate semifinal date of the Shakey's V-League at the Blue Eagle Gym.

STANDINGS	W	L
La Salle	11	2
Adamson	9	4
S. Sebastian	8	6
Lyceum	7	7
FEU	5	8

GAMES TODAY
(*Blue Eagle Gym*)
12 noon—Adamson vs Lyceum
2 p.m.—FEU vs DLSU

The Lady Falcons downed San Sebastian last Wednesday to assure themselves of a rubber-match for the last finals slot. But they can still make it outright depending on the Lady Stags' performance versus Far Eastern in the last semis day on Monday.

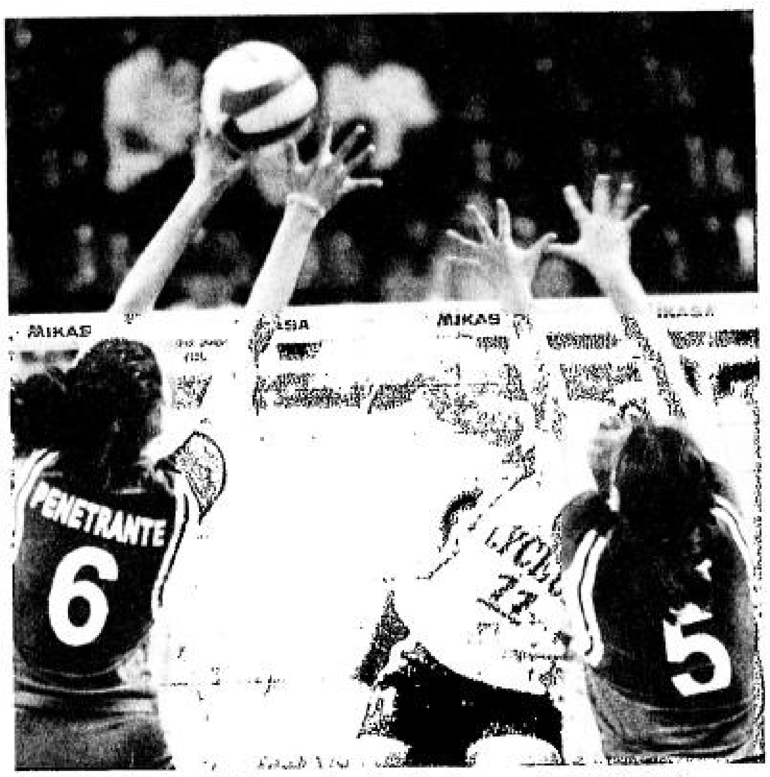
At any rate, Adamson hopes to escape Lyceum's freak winning streak as the Lady Pirates, though out of contention, have won three straight games against tough teams like La Salle and San Sebastian.

La Salle will once again try different combinations when it takes on also-ran Far Eastern in the other game.

The Lady Archers have wagered their once immaculate record twice in a row, hoping to gain more flexibility and depth for the best-of-three championship series.

La Salle is also expected to give Thai import Jindarat Kanchana enough rest and allow its local lineup to step up.

Kanchana, the backbone of La Salle's offense, is nursing a knee injury after a grueling match-up with fellow Thai reinforcement Jalernsri Boulee of San Sebastian last week. *Marc Anthony Reyes*



THEY maybe out of the running, but the Lyceum Lady Pirates' (center) fighting spirit remains as strong as ever.

Knicks fire Brown as coach, hire Thomas as replacement

NEW YORK — THE NEW YORK Knicks put Larry Brown out of his coaching misery on Thursday, ending weeks of uncertainty by firing the Hall of Fame coach with four years and a reported $40 million (euro32 million) left on his contract.

President and general manager Isiah Thomas will replace Brown as coach.

In Brown's lone season in New York, the Knicks stumbled to a 23-59 record — second worst in the NBA and matching the most losses in club history — while Brown publicly feuded with Stephon Marbury and other players. *AP*

Roberto, T'pinco bow out

LORA ROBERTO AND ANYA TANPINCO failed to sustain their fine form in morning play and were eliminated from the 106th National Amateur Golf Championships of the Women's Western Golf Association in Bluefield, Virginia, Thursday.

Roberto lost, 5 and 4, to Adrienne Millican of North Carolina in the Last-16 matches after disposing of Frederique Bruell of Ohio, 3 and 2, in the morning battles among the top 32 survivors of the first round.

Tanpinco advanced to the last 32 after beating Marianne Towersey of Pebble Beach, 2 and 1, but was humbled, 7 and 5, by Morgan Olds of Connecticut in the upper bracket.

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Bosconian Golf Cup

THE 1ST BOSCONIAN GOODWILL GOLF CUP, AN 18-hole tournament open to all Don Bosco alumni and their friends, will be held on June 28 at The Orchard Golf & Country Club in Dasmariñas, Cavite. The tournament is hosted by the Don Bosco Mandaluyong High School Batch '82, sponsored by Shakey's Pizza and supported by Citibank and Mayor Ely Pillas of Jala-jala, Rizal. Aside from alumni of Don Bosco Mandaluyong, Bosconians from Pampanga and Makati and other schools are joining the golfest. Tickets will be available at the registration table on tournament date.. Call event chairman Vic Gregorio at 0920-9136182 or event marketing manager, Dondo de la Vega at 0917-5357317 or Rosalie Salva at 8390158.

Makati derby stakes P2M

THE WTJ SPORTS AND AMUSEMENT CORP. presents another blockbuster cockfest at Makati Coliseum on July 10, 12, 15, 17, 19 and 22, the Salpukan Sa Taglugon 5- cock derby offering a guaranteed prize of P2 million and a brand new Ford Escape. Promoters Lito Orillaza, Rudy Salud and William Co of WTJ pegged the entry fee at P10,000 and minimum bet at P5,500. Sponsor is B- Meg Derby Ace. Meanwhile, the Pinoy Cockers Association of the Philippines (PCAP) CHampionship 8- cock derby fires off on Monday and Wednesday, June 26 and 28. For details, call 896 -3545 and 895 -6475.

Fastest Win event at SJC

GUARANTEED PRIZES ARE AT STAKE TODAY when the Fastest Win One- Cock Ulutan unfolds at San Juan Coliseum beginning at 10 a.m. with Sagupaan Complexor 3000 as main backer. The fastest win champion, who will be chosen after every five fights, will get P15,000 while the second receives P5,000, said promoters Sam Mendoza and Ronnie Lacsina. Up next at SJC is the United Backyard Breeders Association (UBBA) 3- cock derby on July 1. For inquiries, call 725 -5369 and 725 -6563 or 0917 - 8041691 (Ronnie).

Nicklaus Int'l Invt'l golf slated at Sta. Elena

THE LOCAL QUALIFYING TOURNAMENT FOR the prestigious Jack Nicklaus International Invitational in Florida tees off on July 3 at the Sta. Elena Golf Club in Cabuyao, Laguna.

Organizers said players need only the receipt for a P3,500 purchase of Jack Nicklaus apparel or accessories at any Rustan's Department Store in Metro Manila and Cebu from May 15 to June 30 to be able to compete in the tournament.

The International Invitational is scheduled in November at the Bear's Club in Jupiter, Florida.

Filipino golfers over 21, male or female, can take a crack at the international stint by winning the event presented by Sta. Elena in cooperation with Volvo for Life and primarily sponsored by Gulf Air, El Nido Resort and Island Transvoyager.

Green fees, golf carts and food are free and each player will be given a Jack Nicklaus International Invitational signature shirt.

The winners of the men's and women's divisions will be entitled to a round-trip airfare to Florida, as well as four days and three nights accomodation with full meals.

The two second prize winners will get roundtrip tickets each to Dubai courtesy of Gulf Air, while the two third placers plus a guest each will win a roundtrip airfare and three days and two nights accommodation with breakfast at the El Nido Resort in Palawan.

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SPORTS

FIFA WORLD CUP GERMANY 2006

First Round

Team®	MP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
GROUP A							
Germany	3	3	0	0	8	2	9
Ecuador	3	2	0	1	5	3	6
Poland	3	1	0	2	2	4	3
Costa Rica	3	0	0	3	3	9	0
GROUP B							
England	3	2	1	0	5	2	7
Sweden	3	1	2	0	3	2	5
Paraguay	3	1	0	2	2	2	3
Trinidad & Tobago	3	0	1	2	0	4	1
GROUP C							
Argentina	3	2	1	0	8	1	7
Netherlands	3	2	1	0	3	1	7
Ivory Coast	3	1	0	2	5	6	3
Serbia & Mont.	3	0	0	3	2	10	0
GROUP D							
Portugal	3	3	0	0	5	1	9
Mexico	3	1	1	1	4	3	4
Angola	3	0	2	1	1	2	2
Iran	3	0	1	2	2	6	1
GROUP E							
Italy	3	2	1	0	5	1	7
Ghana	3	2	0	1	4	3	6
Czech Republic	3	1	0	2	3	4	3
USA	3	0	1	2	2	6	1
GROUP F							
Brazil	3	3	0	0	7	1	9
Australia	3	1	1	1	5	5	4
Croatia	3	0	2	1	2	3	2
Japan	3	0	1	2	2	7	1
GROUP G							
Switzerland	2	1	1	0	2	0	4
Korea Republic	2	1	1	0	3	2	4
France	2	0	2	0	1	1	2
Togo	2	0	0	2	1	4	0
GROUP H							
Spain	2	2	0	0	7	1	6
Ukraine	2	1	0	1	4	4	3
Tunisia	2	0	1	1	3	5	1
Saudi Arabia	2	0	1	1	2	6	1

INQGRAPHICS

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS
Italy 2, Czech Republic 0
Ghana 2, United States 1
Brazil 4, Japan 1
Croatia 2, Australia 2

TODAY'S MATCHES
Togo vs France; Switzerland vs South Korea; Saudi Arabia vs Spain; Ukraine vs Tunisia

TEAM®
MP - Matches Played
W - Wins
D - Draws
L - Losses
GF - Goals For
GA - Goals Against
Pts - Points

Italians oust No. 2 Czechs

Ronaldo ties goal record; Australia also advances

BERLIN—THE WORLD CUP got its first high-profile casualty Thursday and its first surprise successes.

The second-ranked Czech Republic exited after losing its final Group E game, 2-0, to Italy, which won its group and advanced. Ghana and Australia advanced ahead of more favored teams.

Ghana beat the United States, 2-1, to reach the second round in its first tournament and send the No. 5 Americans home.

Australia drew, 2-2, with 1998 semifinalist Croatia to edge its opponent for a round-of-16 berth alongside defending champion Brazil, which beat Japan, 4-1, with Ronaldo scoring two goals to tie the tournament's all-time scoring record.

Australia will be up against three-time world champion Italy in its next game in Kaiserslautern on Monday. Ghana will be in action Tuesday against Brazil in Dortmund.

In Hamburg, Italy defender Marco Materazzi replaced the injured Alessandro Nesta in the 17th minute against the Czech Republic and scored nine minutes later.

Australia, which last played at the World Cup in 1974 and trailed early on, first leveled through Craig Moore's penalty and then through Harry Kewell with 11 minutes left.

With its second-round berth already secured, Brazil fielded five reserve players and got goals from two of them, Juninho and Gilberto.

"It's important to have options," Brazil coach Carlos Alberto Parreira said.

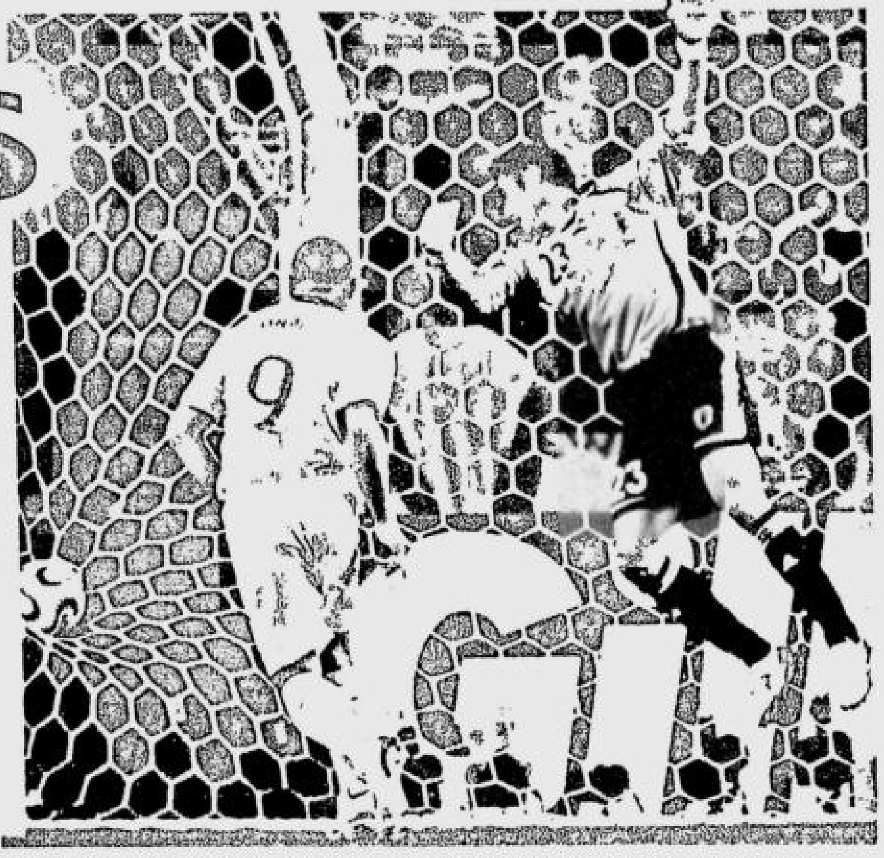
But it was Ronaldo who was the star in Brazil's record 10th straight World Cup win.

Criticized for his weight and sluggish performances in early games, Ronaldo appeared close to top form. He first leveled at 1-1 with a header a minute into first-half injury time and scored his second goal in the 81st with a right-footer from 20 meters.

The first goal moved him past Pele as Brazil's all-time scoring leader in the competition and the second tied the record held by Gerd Mueller of Germany.

Also, Fifa said Thursday that Brazil won't get to keep the World Cup trophy if it wins its sixth title in Germany.

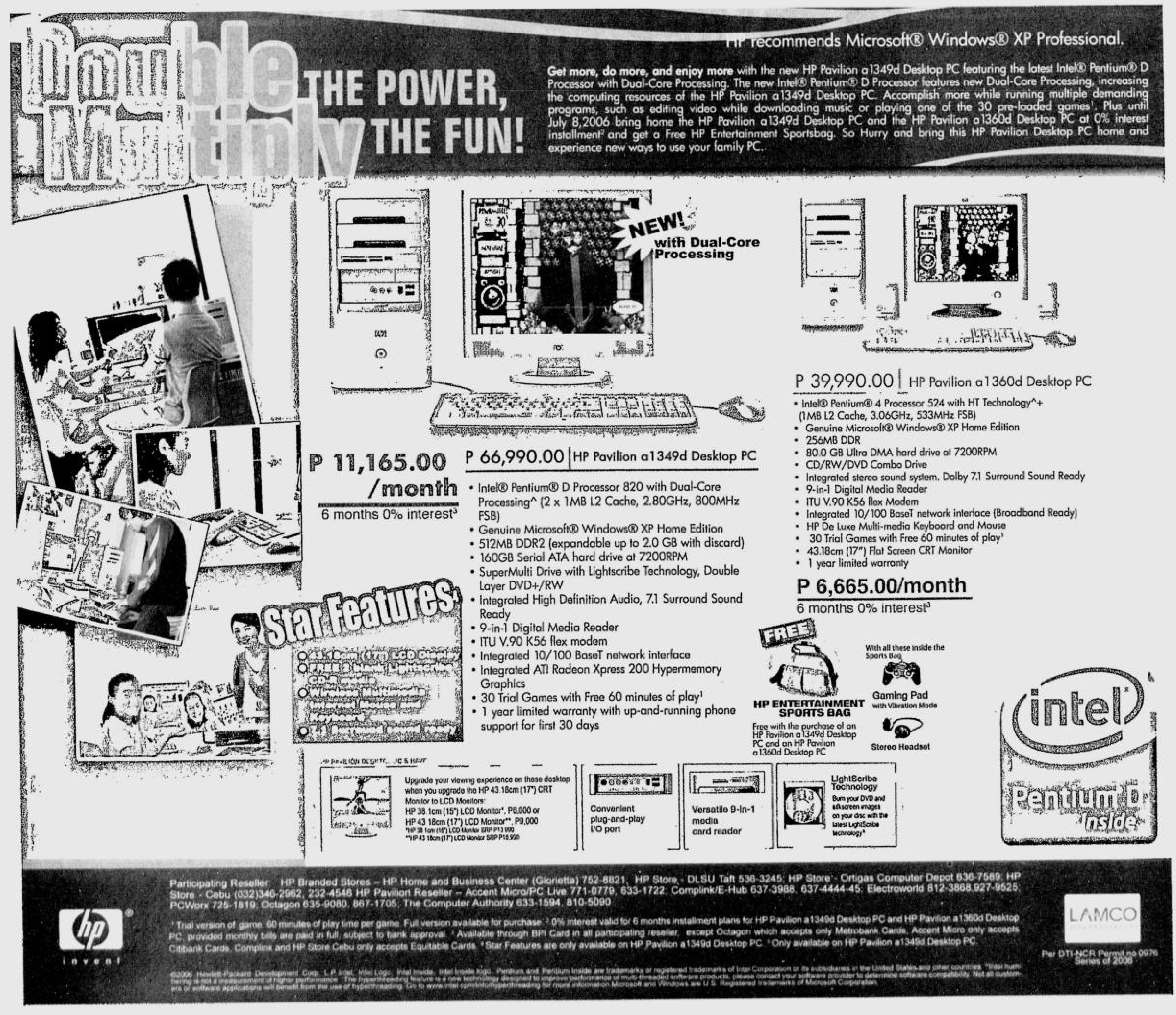
Fifa communications director Markus Siegler denied that Brazil, or any other team, would get to keep one of the most globally recognized prizes in sport. *AP*



SUPERSTAR Ronaldo (left) scores during Brazil's round Group F World Cup football match against Japan. AFP

AUSTRALIA'S Harry Kewell celebrates scoring his team's second goal against Croatia. REUTERS

• FIFA WORLD CUP ON SPORTPLUS
4 a.m.—Japan vs Brazil
4 p.m.—Croatia vs Australia
(replay tomorrow @ 1 a.m.)
10 p.m.—Saudi Arabia vs Spain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¹ Trial version of game. 60 minutes of play time per game. Full version available for purchase. ² 0% interest valid for 6 months installment plans for HP Pavilion a1349d Desktop PC and HP Pavilion a1360d Desktop PC, provided monthly bills are paid in full, subject to bank approval. ³ Available through BPI Card in all participating reseller, except Octagon which accepts only Metrobank Cards. Accent Micro only accepts Citibank Cards. Complink and HP Store Cebu only accepts Equitable Cards. ⁴ Star Features are only available on HP Pavilion a1349d Desktop PC. ⁵ Only available on HP Pavilion a1349d Desktop PC.

Per DTI-NCR Permit no 0976 Series of 2006

E-mail: pr_saturday_special@inquirer.com.ph

Editor **Nestor U. Torre**
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SATURDAY special

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ALONZO, PACQUIAO AND ROSALES. Boxing champ's bio flick doesn't pack as much wallop as it should.

NOW SHOWING

More paunch than punch

By Rito P. Asilo

"Pacquiao"

D: Joel Lamangan
S: Jericho Rosales, Bea Alonzo

THE LIFE STORY OF WORLD BOXING CHAMP MANNY Pacquiao has the stuff that cinematic dreams are made of. But, despite its unquestionably talented leads—Jericho Rosales and Bea Alonzo as the gutsy pugilist and his wife, Jinkee, respectively—the bio flick director Joel Lamangan delivers doesn't pack as much wallop as it should.

In protracted perfunctory hit-and-miss punches, the Pacman's uneven film bio chronicles the life and times of the celebrated boxing hero. From his humble beginnings as a bright but poor student (played by Jiro Manio) in Mindanao, Manny defies poverty, a domineering mother (Jaclyn Jose) and a jealous wife as he stubbornly chases after a dream that takes him all the way to the top of his chosen sport.

Along the way, as shown in flashbacks that trudge along like an uneventful boxing bout, he makes grave mistakes (gambling, drugs, women, bad business choices, etc.) and learns—and obviously earns, based on countless product placements in the film—from them.

With the reliable Alonzo, who shines despite a one-note character, Rosales delivers a passionate performance that captures the spirit and spark that make Pacquiao tick. But, Jericho and Bea's performances are lost in the production's narrative clutter, and are compromised by the movie's slow pace, unexciting boxing matches, and a hectic story that wants to explore many things but only manages to say so much.

Lamangan does make a valid case about the cautionary rise of boxers who, in victory, proudly swagger like invincible warriors, only to totter like scared tots when the specter of defeat—and retirement—begins to haunt them.

"Kapag Tumibok ang Puso"

D: Wenn Deramas
S: Ramon "Bong" Revilla Jr., Ai-Ai de las Alas, Precious Lara Quigaman

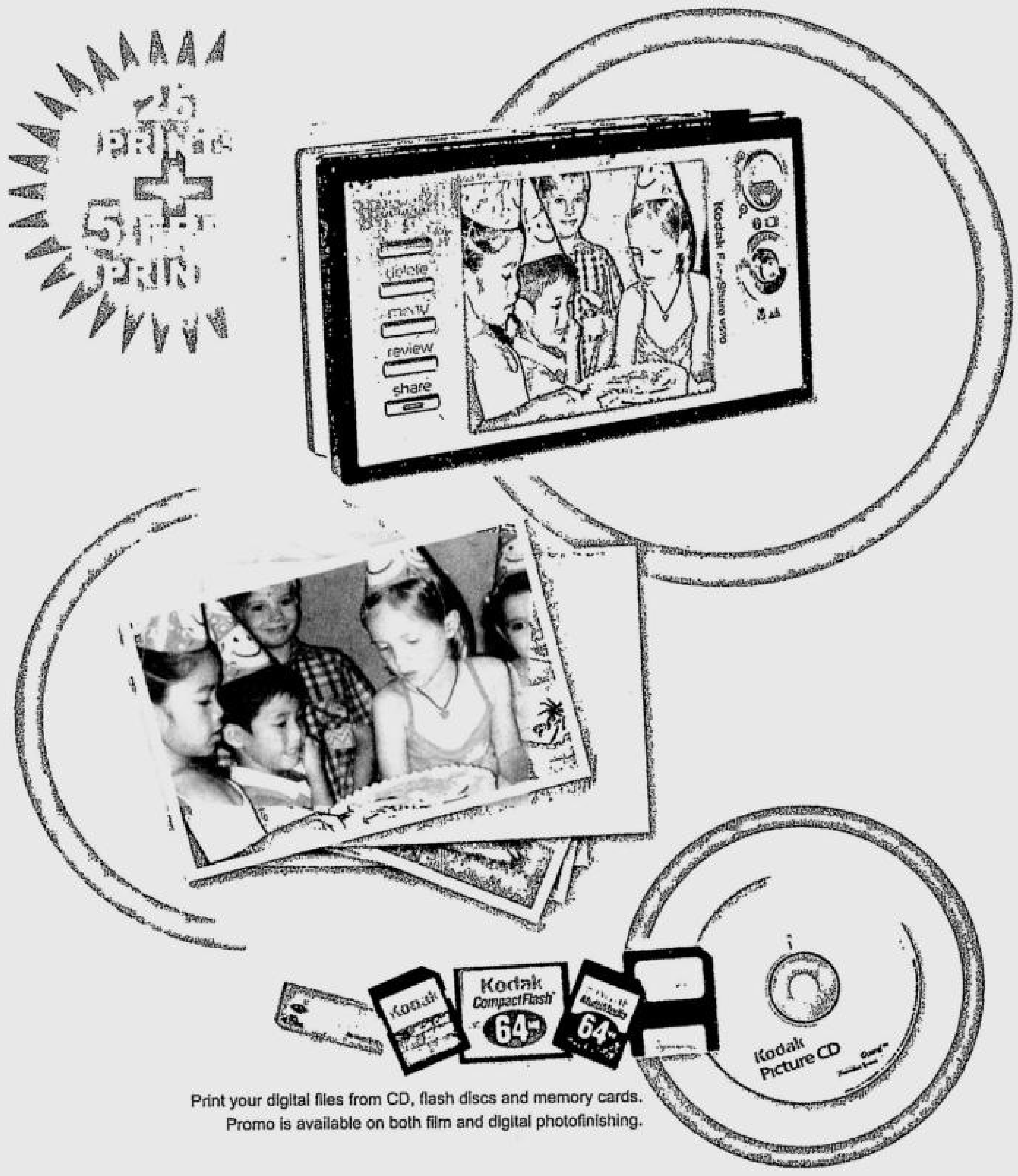
We don't know what to make of this rom-com smorgasbord: When Marco (Ramon "Bong" Revilla Jr.) learns about the failed attempts on the life of Love (Ai-Ai de las Alas), a garish, foul-mouthed businesswoman who "inherited" his departed wife Sarah's (Miss International 2005 Precious Lara Quigaman) heart, he feels obligated to protect her.

Despite strong opposition from family and friends, he soon finds himself drawn to the caustic, uniquely kooky charms of Love. But, does this unlikely couple's budding romance stand a chance? Love *does* move in zany, mysterious ways, and, in Marco and Love's case, it *really* does.

To be fair, some well-thought-out gags generate hearty chuckles ("Wowowee's" Janelle Jamer engages in a dead-on impersonation of Rufa Mae Quinto). But, despite a largely comic cast and a catchy theme song (remade with gusto by Toni Gonzaga and, in a more sedate version, by Deejay Durano), the movie is dragged down by several factors: Comic scenes that plateau long before they manage to deliver their trite punchlines; Ai-Ai's heavy-handed comedy; Bong's increasingly unbecoming paunch, and Bong and Ai-Ai's awkward, wince-worthy romantic sequences.

The movie's jarring continuity gaffes don't help, either: When Marco and Love's kids (Aaron Junatas and Kiray Celis, respectively) figure in a fight, they start exchanging blows—*before* they leave for school in the morning. The succeeding frame, however, shows Marco and Love putting a stop to the kid's duel when they come home from a date in the evening!

The production, though, has one bright spot in the person of Inah Revilla, who plays her father's daughter in the movie. Sure, the pretty young lass still has a lot to learn in the acting department, but she exudes a refreshing presence on the big screen—and *that's* more than we can say for many of show biz's current pretty but bland newcomers.



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2 SCARY MOVIE 4
11:20 1:25 3:30 5:35 7:40 9:50

3 WHORE
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00

4 PACQUIAO the MOVIE
11:20 1:25 3:30 5:35 7:40 9:45

5 THE NUN
11:35 1:40 3:45 5:50 7:55 10:00

6 THE FAST AND THE FURIOUS 3
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

7 AN AMERICAN HAUNTING

8 CARS 12:00 2:30
GARFIELD 2 5:35 7:40 9:45

9 KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO
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1 SCARY MOVIE 4 12:20 2:20 4:20 6:20 8:25 10:00

2 AN AMERICAN HAUNTING

3 THE FAST AND THE FURIOUS 3
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

4 PACQUIAO THE MOVIE
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

5 THE NUN
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

6 WHORE
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

7 KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO 11:00 3:20
LAKE HOUSE 5:45 7:45 9:50

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1 KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO
1:05 3:45 6:25 9:05

2 SCARY MOVIE 4
11:20 1:45 4:15 6:45 9:15

3 THE FAST AND THE FURIOUS 3
12:05 2:15 4:25 6:35 9:00

4 CARS 12:00 2:25 4:50
GARFIELD 2 7:15 9:00

5 AN AMERICAN HAUNTING
11.50 2:10 4:30 6:50 9:10

6 LAKE HOUSE
12:50 2:50 4:50 6:50 9:00

7 GARFIELD 2
12:30 2:40 4:50 7:00 9:10

8 THE NUN
12:30 2:40 4:50 7:00 9:10

NOVALICHES 936-3231 • 936-3229-30

1 THE FAT AND THE FURIOUS 3
2 PACQUIAO THE MOVIE
3 SCARY MOVIE 4
4 LAKE HOUSE
5 KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO
6 THE NUN

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4 FAILURE TO LAUNCH

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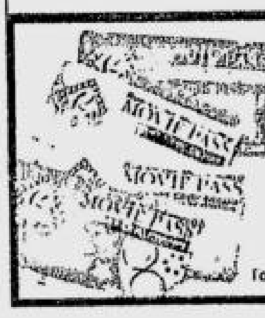
6 THE OMEN



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Promising starlets gear up for stage musical

By Nestor U. Torre

DIAZ. Talent and dedication.

RCENTLY, WE HAD THE PLEASure of meeting with seven comely comers, TV talents who have expressed an interest in performing in musical theater as well.

The production they were auditioning for was especially big and significant, so interest in it was high. Happily, it was also matched by the young ladies' beauty, talent, seriousness of purpose, and vivacity.

Key role

Jamie Joaquin appears on Sharon Cuneta's Sunday show on Channel 2, and has sung a key role in a stage musical. Her dusky beauty and ability to express herself in an involving way should take her far in the field of entertainment—not just here, but internationally.

Say Alonzo turns out to be more interesting and vital in person than she was on the first edition of "Pinoy Big Brother." She bills herself as a natural comic, but yearns to tackle new challenges in drama and musical theater.

Paw Diaz was our best bet on the Star Circle Quest edition she joined some seasons ago, and it's a delight to see that she's honed her talents further after that competition. Pao has the talent and dedication not just to achieve stardom, but to make her own unique mark in show business.

Workshops

Only 16 years old, **Pia Romero** has been taking performance workshops for five years now, so she's more than ready to tackle a wide variety of roles of increasing importance.

Her younger sister, **Sarah**, is another outstanding young talent, with a quiet beauty that grows on you. Once she gets her act together, she should similarly come on strong in the biz in years to come.

Jenny Miller has been in show business for four years now, and her combination of beauty, talent and charisma should also take her far. She looks like a young Snooky Serna, but her temperament is uniquely her own.

Lookalike

Finally, **Glaiza de Castro** has been described as an Angel Locsin lookalike, but she has much more going for her. She comes from a family of band singers, and she has show business in her blood. But, she's prepared to go even farther than her relatives and achieve the stellar status and recognition she deserves.

We spent only a few hours with these talented young women, but we were impressed with their potential. We were also gratified to see that, unlike many other female starlets with "xerox" looks and performance styles, these seven talents were unique individuals and performers in their own right.

That means that, after the "clones" shall have faded away from the scene, they should still be very much around!

Kundirana marks milestone

By Andy Bais

KUNDIRANA. Holds anniversary concert at CCP.

WHAT DO GARY VALENCIANO, Dingdong Avanzado, Randy Santiago, Mel Villena and Louie Ocampo have in common? They're all products of Kundirana, La Salle Greenhills' popular all-male singing group.

To mark its 35th anniversary this year, the group will stage a special concert at the CCP Main Theater on July 1 at 8 p.m. This year's batch, which has just returned from a successful US tour, will be joined by alumni from 1971 to 2005. Special guests include Pilita Corrales, Jackielou Blanco, and Ogie Alcasid, another Kundirana alumnus.

Fortunate

Songwriter and musical arranger Dingdong Eduque, a member of the original batch, makes it a point to watch Kundirana shows when his schedule allows it. He explains: "These shows allow me to relive my youth all over again. I feel fortunate that I don't just get to watch them this time, I also get to arrange their songs."

For his part, Dingdong shares that what he has become, he owes to Kundirana. Now, he feels it's his turn to give something back. "Kundirana was my training ground. In my time, the members did everything from music arranging and choreography to set and costume design."

Original batch

Another member of the original batch, Fr. Dennis Maim, celebrates mass once a month in De La Salle Greenhills to reach out to the young members of the group.

The CCP concert will feature songs that are included in the group's commemorative CD, like Louie Ocampo's "You Are My Song," Ogie Alcasid's "Kailangan Kita," Gary Valenciano's "Lifting Us Higher" and Montet Acoymo's "Dalawang Tinig." Call 721-8914.

Natural healing

LOTUS POND

R. Valencia and S. Bismark

THERE IS A NATURAL AND INexpensive way to alleviate suffering from diseases: Using a warm compress. To do this, simply soak a washcloth in an herbal infusion and place it over strategic parts of the body.

Advantage

How does this help? In the book, "The Chinese Way to Healing: Many Paths to Wholeness," Misha Ruth Cohen explains: "Warm compresses have the advantage of directly delivering concentrated heat and herbal infusions into spots that need attention. They are recommended for chronic and acute stomach problems, gynecologic discomfort, headache, strains and sprains. Here are infusions used to dispel stagnant chi or life energy:

"Ginger infusions consist of 1/3 large ginger root (grated or finely-chopped); a square of unbleached cheesecloth or *katcha*, and two quarts of boiled water. Place grated ginger in a square of cheesecloth and securely tie it. Put this in a pan with two quarts of water, and boil for 10 minutes. Remove bag, set aside, and soak washcloth in ginger brew, then apply over troubled area. Repeat until you feel warm and comfortable.

Aroma

"For cough relief, make a compress as described above, but, instead of ginger, use leaves of peppermint or spearmint. Apply compress to upper chest, and breathe in mint aroma.

"To alleviate fever, place four drops of eucalyptus oil on a washcloth saturated with cool water. Place on chest and breathe deeply. Repeat until body temperature decreases."

These are simple remedies, but they are natural and effective. Happy healing!

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And the music plays the Band, indeed. Since their debut in 2004, Bamboo continues to rock the nation by storm. The band's intense passion and talent for music has long been causing a nationwide stir. Their powerful and patriotic lyrics run deep into the hearts and minds of Filipinos especially the youth. Such achievement deserves a high, if not the highest commendation.

In the recently held AWIT Awards co-hosted by MTV, Bamboo got their fair share of glory. SMART Buddy congratulates Bamboo for bagging six major awards – Album of the Year (Light, Peace, Love), Best in Rock ("Hallelujah"), Best Song of the Year ("Hallelujah"), Best in Ballad ("Much Has Been Said"), Best Live Performance by a Group, and the People's Choice Award ("Hallelujah").

The best definitely recognizes their kind. SMART Buddy, the number one prepaid service in the country is very proud to have Bamboo as part of its winning family of endorsers.

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Bamboo's electrifying performance during the awards night

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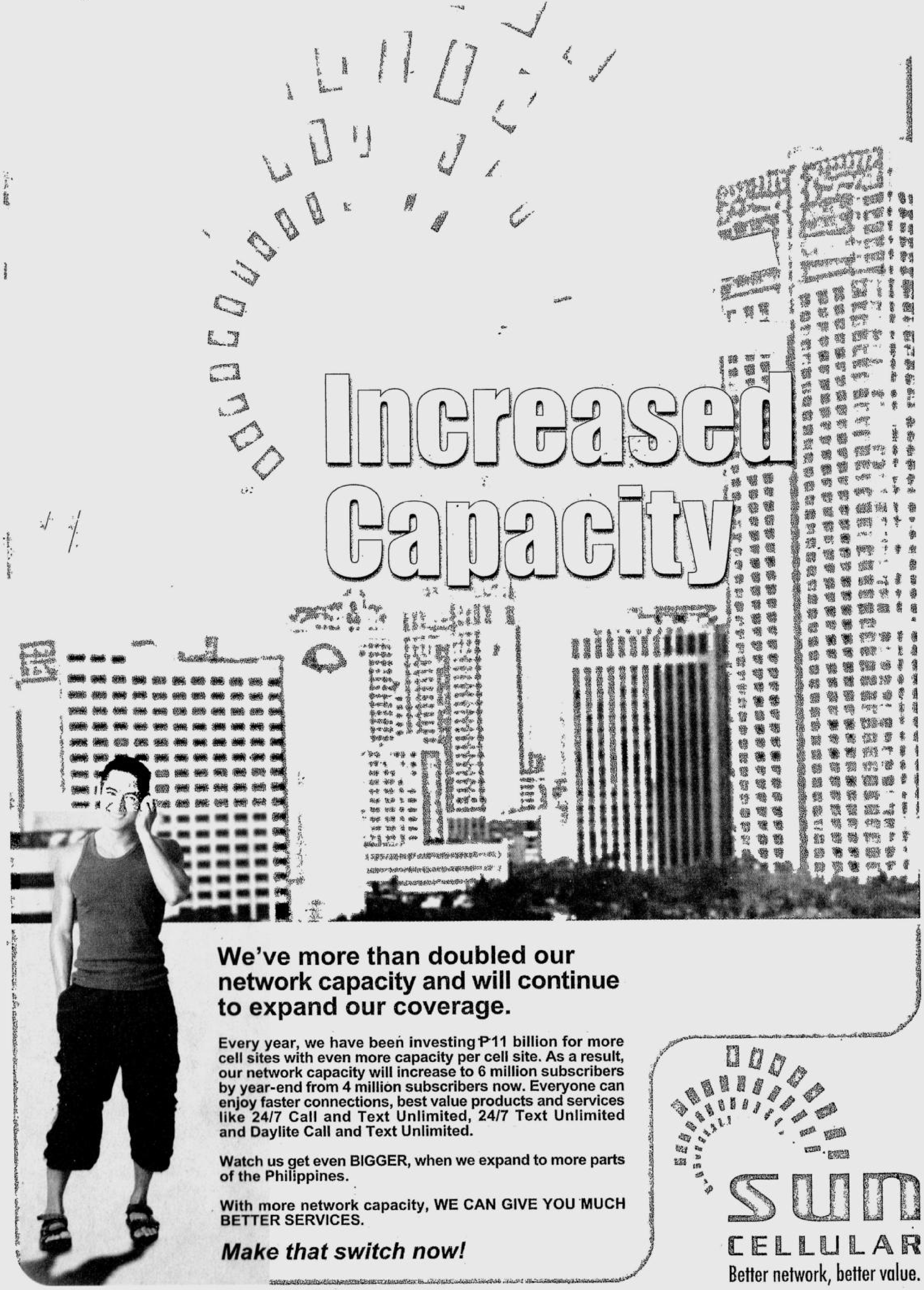

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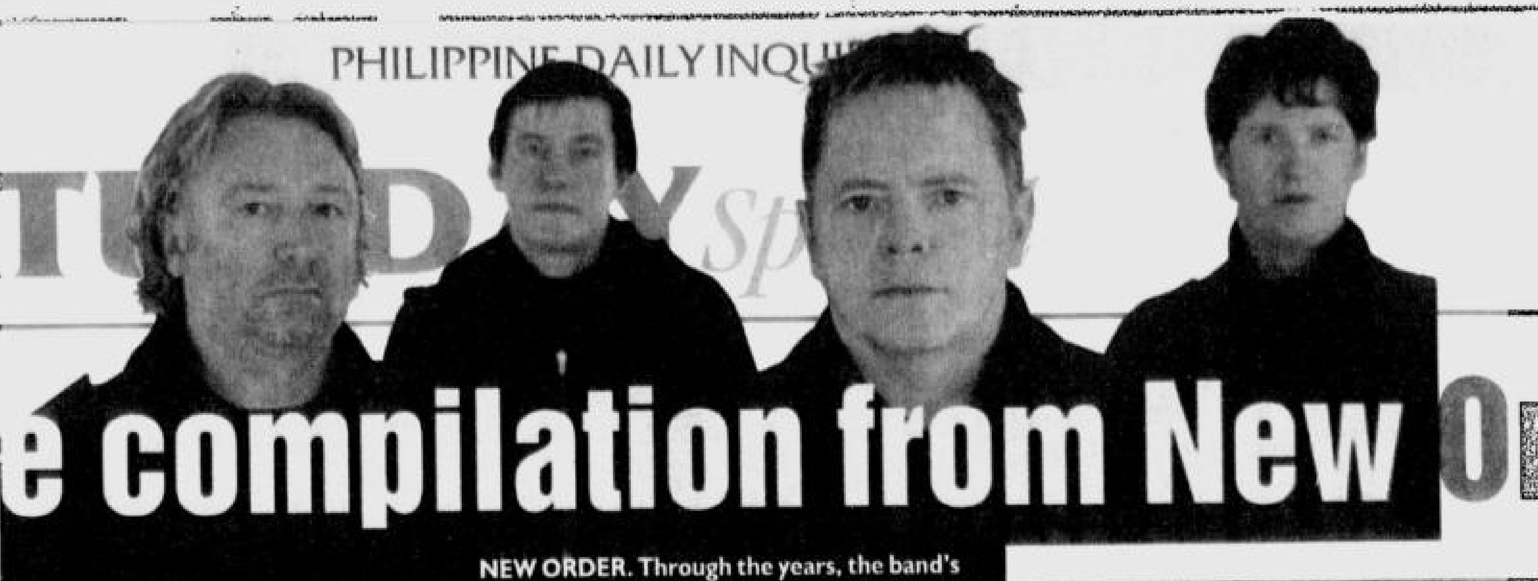
Definitive compilation from New Order


NEW ORDER. Through the years, the band's music has retained its awareness of the bleaker things in life.

By Noelani Torre

THERE HAVE BEEN MORE THAN A FEW New Order compilation albums released throughout the band's 25 years of existence. There's 1987's "Substance," 1995's "The Best of New Order" and "The Rest of New Order," and 2002's "International" and the four-disc box set, "Retro." In fact, they nearly outnumber the band's actual album releases, of which there have only been eight.

Five compilation albums were apparently not enough for the Manchester foursome, however, inasmuch as they've recently given us a sixth—"Singles," a two-disc collection of the band's songs.

Anthologies

Usually, when bands start to assault the public with their "best of" and "greatest hits" anthologies, people start to think along the lines of if-they-can't-come-up-with-new-stuff-maybe-they're-going-into-a-decline.

But, New Order released a very well-received disc of spanking new material last year ("Waiting for the Sirens' Call"). Besides, they've *never* been known for doing the usual.

Certainly, when Ian Curtis, the celebrated singer of Joy Division, killed himself in 1980, nobody expected that the remaining band members would eventually go on to form a group whose achievement would rival that of their former band's.

Renamed New Order—with Peter Hook on bass, Stephen Morris on drums, new member Gilliam Gilbert on keyboards, and guitarist Bernard Stumner stepping into Curtis' shoes—they managed to transform tragedy into a success story—not that they were untouched by Curtis' sudden death.

The first singles they released as New Order have desolate quality lurking under their deceptively smooth melodies, and through the years, their music has retained this awareness of the bleaker things in life.

You can trace the development of this music in the 31-track double-disc, and more than two hours-long singles collection, "Singles."

With the tracks arranged chronologically, the compilation provides a comprehensive overview of their growth from a somewhat uncertain post-Joy Division group to one of the most significant and innovative bands of their generation.

As the write-up on the inlay puts it, "New Order was always about journeys, and you see that nowhere more clearly than in the singles."

The collection's first disc covers New Order's exciting and groundbreaking years, while the second spans the late '80s to the still rocking and dancing present. This may be their sixth compilation album, but it is arguably the most definitive—and definitely worth grabbing.

Cherry Pie is on a roll

By Andy Bais

PICACHE. Memorable experience filming with Romero and Garcia.

FOR CHERRY PIE Picache, when it rains, it really pours. She has just earned critical acclaim for her performance in the soon-to-be-released "Kaleldo" where, for the first time, she plays a lesbian. In "Manay Po," she was hilarious as the liberated mother of three gay boys.

Next month, Picache will once again grace the big screen in Seiko Films' heartwarming family-oriented movie, "I Wanna Be Happy."

In her latest screen outing, Cherry Pie plays the daughter of Gloria Romero and Eddie Garcia. She relates: "*Para akong si Tita Glo dito*, whose life revolves around her husband and children. I turn a blind eye to my husband's (Christian Vasquez) philandering, but there's a twist in the end. The movie is hilarious without trying hard to be funny. *Kitang-kita ang tatak ni* (writer and director) Joey Reyes. *Nakakatawa ang* dialogue *at* situations."

Frustrated

Cherry Pie has lost count of the movies she has done with Reyes. She shares: "He was one of the directors *na nagtiyaga sa akin* when I was starting out. A few years back, when I became frustrated with my movie career and decided to quit acting, *si* Joey *ang nagbigay sa akin ng magandang* break *sa* 'Makati Avenue.' I always played the role of the leading lady's best friend. But, with Joey as director, *naging* special *ang* performances *ko!*"

She plays another supporting role in "I Wanna Be Happy," but Cherry Pie doesn't mind. "*Mahaba ang* role *ko*, and I really loved the script. *May sarili kasi akong* story, *kaya masarap himayin*," she explains.

Working with Gloria Romero and Eddie Garcia was memorable for her: "I wish I was already an actor during their time. *Sa kanila, makikita mo ang* aura, elegance *at* dignity *ng pagiging artista*.

Special treatment

"They're always on the set 30 minutes before call time. *Gusto ko silang maunahan, pero hindi ko magawa!* They each had only one assistant—*si Tito* Eddie, driver *lang*. And they were unassuming, they didn't expect to be given special treatment. Younger actors can learn a lot from them."

We kidded Cherry Pie about her being a favorite Seiko "talent" of late. "I Wanna Be Happy" is her third film in a row for the production outfit—after her critically-acclaimed turns in "Bridal Shower" and "Bikini Open," where she's again in the running in the best actress category at this year's Star Awards. She admits: "I am very grateful to *Tito* Robbie Tan. *Sana, kumita ang aming* latest film, *para ma*-encourage *siya* to produce more wholesome movies!"

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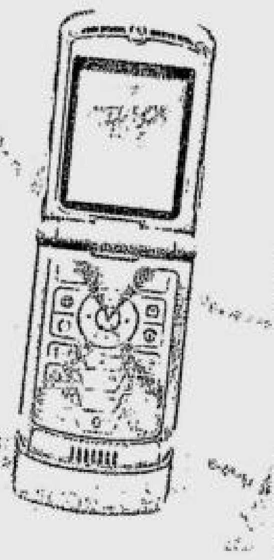
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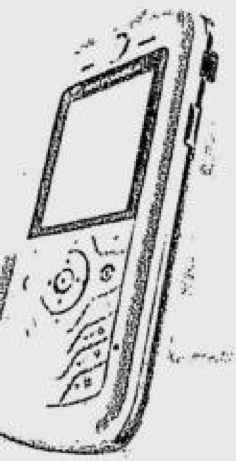
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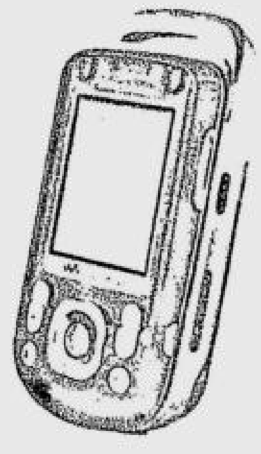
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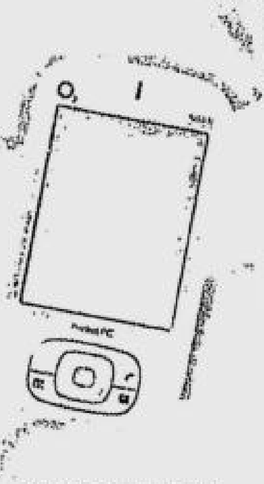
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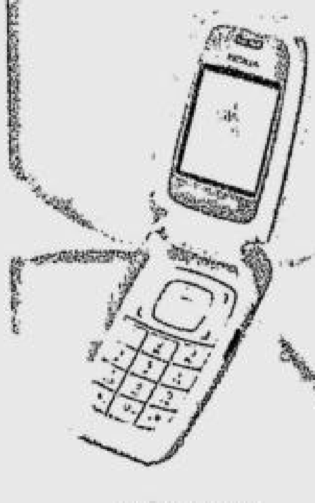
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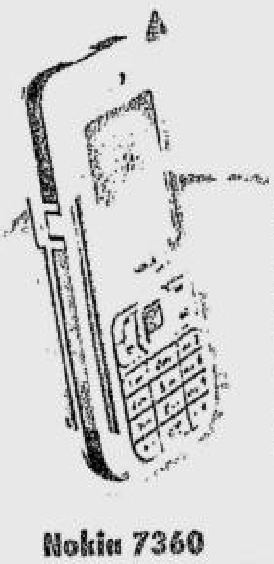
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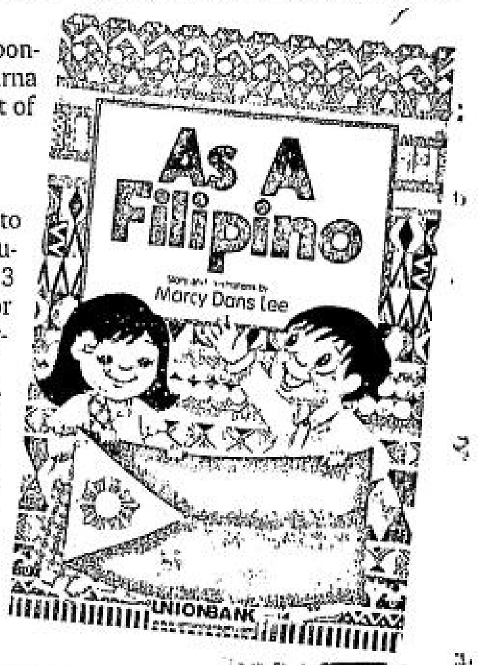
Eye-catching picture book about the Constitution

By Nestor U. Torre

PARENTS AND TEACHERS WHO worry about Filipino youths' lack of awareness about nationhood and patriotism will be glad to know that a children's picture book has been published that seeks to make the Philippine Constitution understandable and interesting to the country's young people.

Launched last June 19, the values formation book, titled "As a Filipino," is written and illustrated by Marcy Dans Lee, who was inspired by Maria Gonzales-Goolsby, Unionbank CSR executive director. The book is sponsored by Unionbank, Adarna House and the Department of Education.


As A Filipino
Marcy Dans Lee
UNIONBANK

Curriculum

It will be integrated into the public schools curriculum at the Grades 2 and 3 levels. Call 372-3548 or email adarnahouse@adarna com.ph.

With eye-catching illustrations and verses, Lee encourages young readers to think about such otherwise "heavy" topics as Faith in God, Unity, Patriotism, Work, Respect for Life, Respect for Law and Government, Truth, Justice, Freedom, Love, Equality, Peace, Promotion of the Common Good, Concern for Family and Future Generations, Concern for the Environment, and Order.

The English verses come with a Filipino translation, titled "Bilang Isang Filipino," by Nina Luis Diego Lee and Antonia Beatrice Lee.

Despite the picture book's child-friendly look and tone, children reading it should be guided by their teachers or parents, to discuss and further clarify the topics and values it depicts.

Since "As a Filipino" is for children, its characters are all young, the better for children to relate to them.

Classes

Marcy Dans Lee's love for children's books began at a very young age, when she assisted in the summer art classes conducted by her mother, noted artist and educator Araceli Limcaco Dans.

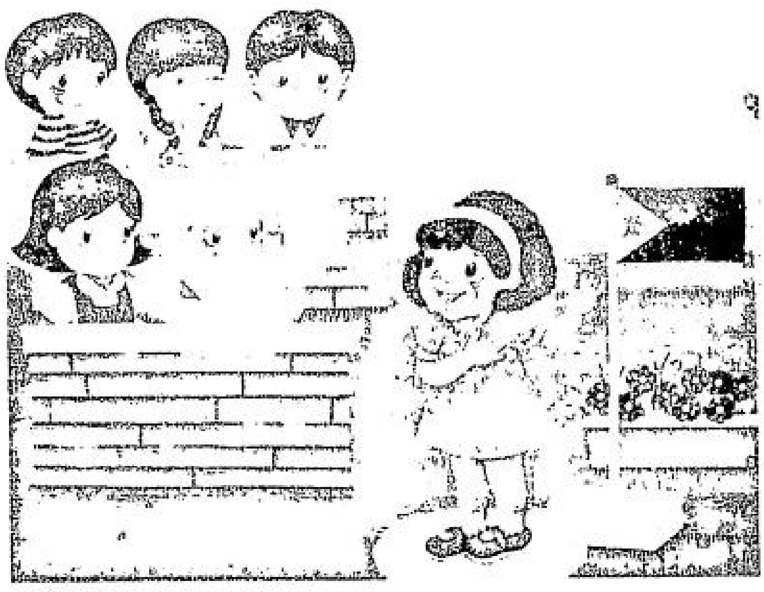
After graduating from the UP College of Fine Arts, Marcy taught Art at the Maryknoll Child Study Center. Fusing her art with her experiences with children, she began writing and illustrating books for young readers.

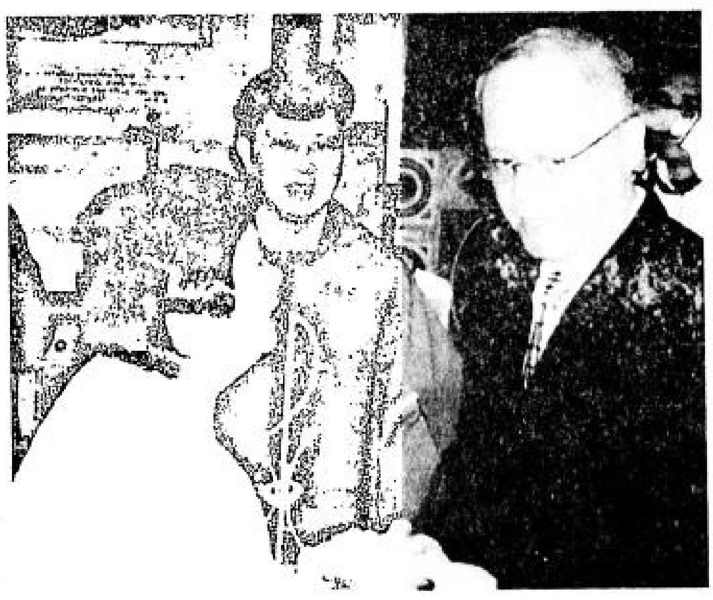
LEE. Exceptional artistry and love for children.

Her first book, "Ibon, L'Oiseu des Philippines," was published in Paris, France, where she lived for four years. Returning to the Philippines, she taught at the UP College of Fine Arts and was the chairperson of its Department of Visual Communication.

In 1996, she established the UP Mindanao Cultural Center in Davao City, and taught Children's Literature there. Recently, she was appointed as head of UP Mindanao's Human Resources Development Office.

Marcy's other children's books include "Luis and the Enchanted Creatures," "The Crocodile and the Colorful Headbands," "Laon and the Seven-Headed Dragon," "The Girl Who Loved to Sing," and "Thrice as Nice."


"AS A FILIPINO." Child-friendly look and tone.


SILVER WEDDING VOWS

Two Filipino broadcast executives renewed their silver wedding vows in special rites at the Vatican, following a pilgrimage to Lourdes, France. RPN's Edith and IBC's Bob del Rosario were feted by a group of 15, including Anak TV officials, Edgardo Roces, Elvira Yap Go and Mag Cruz Hatol. Ivy Violan honored the couple with Filipino love songs during the solemn exchange of vows held at the basement crypt of St. Peter's Basilica.

Following . . .

From page A3-6

among Gary's trademark dance steps. He adds, "When you're tired, you'll forget the stress because the adrenaline rush is so powerful. *Masaya talaga!*" The singing and dancing duo will soon collaborate on an album that features Gab's remixed versions of Gary's dance tunes.

Biggest fans

Fathers and sons concur that they are each other's biggest fans—but not necessarily their worst critics. "*Bilib ako dahil sarling kayod ang ginawa n'ya para makuha ang gusto niya,*" Pen says of Ping, who shone as *Kuya* Bogs in last year's "Ang Pagdadalaga ni Maximo Oliveros." "*Sa pag-arte, may pinagmanahan! Nagko*-comment *lang ako 'pag nagtatanong siya. Pinupuri ko 'pag kapuri-puri.*"

Ping returns the compliment: "*Sa lahat ng napapanood ko, magaling siya.* Consistency is what I strive for."

Gab also gushes about Gary; "My dad is my idol—he's someone I look up to, and I'm very proud of him!"

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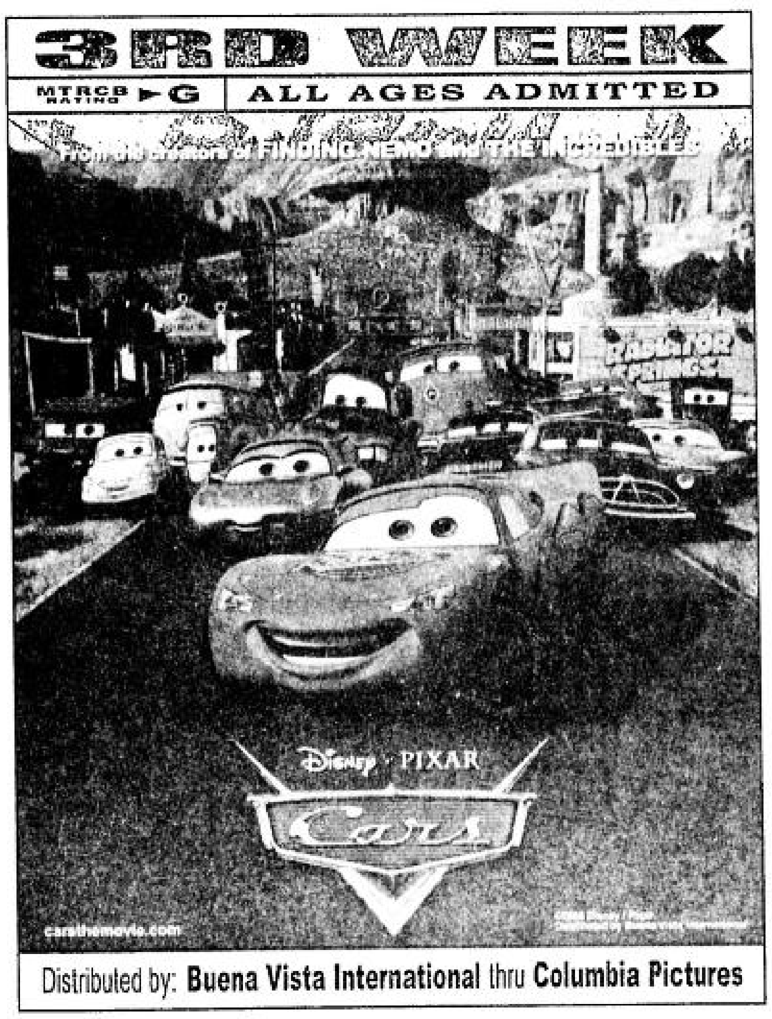
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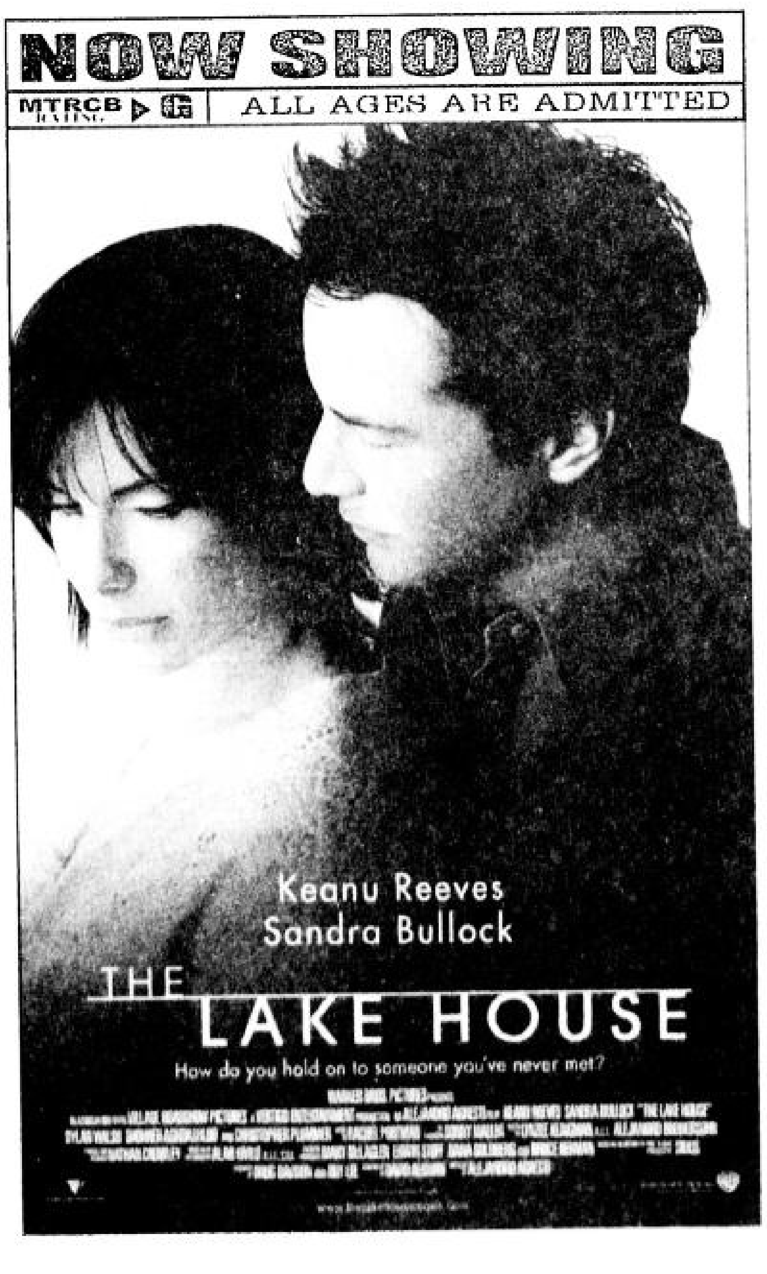
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How do you hold on to someone you've never met?

Caricatures still hold sway in local movies

By Behn Cervantes

AS THE BEARDED VILLAIN GUFFAWS, HE darts a lascivious look at the beautiful damsel in distress—his evil intentions clear for all to see! He leers at her cleavage and thighs with eyes that are as dark as they are fierce. His expression spells S-E-X—and our heroine is in grave danger! So, we pray that lightning hits him where it matters most. This isn't a man, this is a beast of the worst kind!

GIL. The first-rate villainess is no copycat, of course.

Predictable

I hate these predictable scenes. It's hard to sympathize with the abused woman: I wonder why she doesn't fight back and give him a good kick where it would hurt most. I wonder what goes on inside the actor's mind when he comes up with such ludicrous acting. I mean, gone are the days of melodrama when evil was black and virtue was as white as the driven snow.

What irritates me about these overdone scenes is that they are passé. So, why do directors keep including such sequences in their movies? Shouldn't actors know better when they are directed in such a manner? —Unless, of course, the scenes were meant as a spoof.

When these sequences appear, I remember the likes of Hollywood's Jack Elam and Ernest Borgnine, and, on the local scene, Johnny Montiero, Romy Diaz and Dick Israel. Even Eddie Garcia has created his vintage villainous characters. But, I'm surprised that this type of acting still reigns in the movies today, as many would-be Dick Israels continue to act in that same predictable manner.

Definition

Whenever a leading lady is to be mauled in a scene, she will most probably be abused by a character actor whose definition of "character" is limited to (very) bad acting. Subtlety has nothing to do with evil. The devil from hell has got to be black, and his role models are usually wild animals like foxes, apes, wolves—or thirsty, blood-sucking vampires. How tiresome!

Of course, lady villains do their own thing: They put on too much make-up, wear the highest heels, are dressed in slinky garb, and look like they've just come from the beauty salon. Everything is in place—except their morals!

And they are *taas-kilay*, of course! *Mestizas* like Cherie Gil and Jackielou Blanco have taken over the roles once done to death by the likes of Bella Flores and Zeny Zabala.

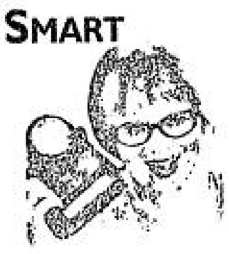
Privilege

Those *malditas* not only had the "privilege" of slapping the leading lady, they even intended to steal the dashing leading man! However, in the late '70s, director Joey Gosiengfiao had the leading lady slap the evil woman back—what a surprise!

Guess what? Scores of movies soon after aped the (once effective) tit for tat slapping scene. But, as Cherie Gil enunciated so effected to Sharon Cuneta in another oft-copied scene, who needs "a second-rate, trying-hard copycat?" —Another scene I am *so* tired of!

Tracing roots through public service

STREET SMART



Mandy Navasero

TO OBSERVE the late Eugenio Lopez Sr.'s 105th birth anniversary on July 20, his children has initiated four social development programs in Jaro to benefit the hometown of their father.

First is a six-month feeding program with Bantay Bata 163 to help reduce malnutrition in over 40 barangays. Second is an initiative to provide houses to 50 families.

Training

Third, to provide education and training for students and teachers in 15 public elementary and three public high schools through the combined efforts of the Knowledge Channel and the ABS-CBN Foundation. And fourth, a program for responsible parenthood that aims to provide health care and youth counseling.

Oscar M. Lopez, chairman of the Lopez Group of Companies, is sustaining his family's long history of philanthropy, public service, nationalistic involvement and entrepreneurship.

Email mandynavasero@yahoo.com.ph, or call 899-1767.

RINA Lopez-Bautista and brother Jay Lopez help build a Gawad Kalinga house in Jaro.

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Indies, classics at Cinema One filmfest

By Rito P. Asilo

DENNIS MARASIGAN'S CRITically-acclaimed digital feature, "Sa North Diversion Road," is a meditative examination of love and infidelity that features John Arcilla and Irma Adlawan, who play an exhausting array of characters—10 each!

The brave duo delivers a thespic high-wire act and often succeeds in portraying different but somewhat interrelated couples who discuss the whimsical vagaries of living and loving as they drive along the North Diversion Road.

Mixed results

The film, currently being screened at the Cinema One festival of digital movies and Filipino film classics in SM Megamall and SM Manila until tomorrow, treads the fine line that separates film and the legitimate stage—with mixed results.

One of last year's better films, Marasigan's movie is fresh, thoughtful, tragic, hilarious and appropriately farcical, and uses the lengthy highway as a metaphor for marriage and relationships.

ARCILLA. Thespic high-wire act.

It deftly showcases the director's ability to explore text and character. The script, however, can get annoyingly repetitive, engages the actors in unnecessarily long-winded discussions, and further confounds the narrative clutter when it strays away from its focus on marriage and ventures into the topic of death. But, when the segments work, they're memorably searing and gut-wrenching.

Topel Lee's "Dilim," on the other hand, has an interesting premise: Set in violent Manila in the near future, it tells the story of an honest cop (Archie Adamos) who's hot on the heels of Dilim (Mario Magalona), a mysterious vigilante who goes after the bad guys and helps kids and damsels in distress—including the cop's daughter, Elisa (Rica Peralejo), whom he rescues from the brother of a feared gangster, Brasko (Emilio Garcia).

When Dilim kills Brasko's brother to save Elisa, the predator—who later turns out to be a *manananggal*!—becomes the prey! Really now. Inspired but unfocused, the movie also boasts of impressive camerawork and good performances from Magalona, Peralejo and Adamos.

Exciting list

Aside from its roster of digital productions like "North Diversion," "Dilim," Denisa Reyes and Mark Gacy's "Sandalang Bahay," and Lisa Cornejo's "Sitak," the current festival also features an exciting list of award-winning and groundbreaking local movies that the younger generation of cineastes ought to make a beeline for.

Lineup

Consider the lineup: Lamberto Avellana's "Portrait of the Artist as Filipino"; Peque Gallaga's "Oro, Plata, Mata"; Ishmael Bernal's "City After Dark (Manila by Night)" and "Salawahan"; Lino Brocka's "Maynila, Sa Mga Kuko ng Liwanag" and "Bona"; Joey Gosiengfiao's "Temptation Island"; the Dolphy-starrer "Omeng Satanasia," and the Eddie Romero-Gerardo de Leon collaboration, "Intramuros: The Walls of Hell," starring Jock Mahoney *and* Fernando Poe Jr.

Screenings in Megamall today: "City After Dark," 11 a.m.; "Anak ng Tinapa," 1 p.m.; "Sandalang Bahay," 2:30 p.m.; "Mga Anak ni Brocka," 5 p.m.; "Bona," 8 p.m.; "Portrait of the Artist as Filipino," 10 p.m. Tomorrow: "Dilim," 11 a.m.; "Sitak," 1 p.m.; "Sa North Diversion Road," 3 p.m.; "Intramuros: The Walls of Hell," 5 p.m.; "Sandalang Bahay," 7 p.m., and Laurice Guillen's "Salome," 9 p.m.

'Solomonic' solution
to impasse over FPJ's award

By Nestor U. Torre

WHEN THE LATE Fernando Poe Jr. was chosen as one of the country's latest batch of National Artists, the expectation was that his widow, Susan Roces, would accept the award on his behalf during the conferment rites at Malacañang Palace.

POE. Signal honor.

All too soon, however, that fond expectation was shot down with the forthright announcement that Ms Roces would do no such thing, for obvious reasons.

Family friend

Next, people hoped that other members of the Poe family would do the honors. When this didn't pan out, either, it was felt that a worthy representative, like esteemed colleague and family friend, Eddie Romero, a National Artist in his own right, would step into the breech.

At first, it seemed like that was an acceptable alternative—then, not. So, when the National Artist awards were conferred by president Gloria Arroyo last June 9 at Malacañang Palace, no one accepted FPJ's award.

Then, just when many people thought that all further speculations about a possible rapproachment were moot and academic, at the Cultural Center of the Philippines' own tribute to the new National Artists, Poe's daughter Mary Grace Poe Llamanzares and her son showed up to represent him.

Twist

That was an unexpected additional twist in the complex chronology of events that had made the FPJ-Malacañang standoff such a front page-hugger for several weeks.

What did this latest twist at the CCP rites indicate? That, officially or not, FPJ's camp had come up with a "Solomonic" solution to the controversial impasse: It wasn't right to attend the Malacañang rites, because that could be interpreted as lending legitimacy to the Arroyo presidency, which has been challenged by FPJ's leaders and followers—*but* it was OK for Poe's daughter and grandson to grace the rites at the CCP, because that venue was politics-free, and thus the family could accept the signal honor on purely artistic grounds.

Or, to put it more graphically by using the colorful style of Filipino movie titles, especially for action films: "*Sa iyo ang* Malacañang, *sa akin ang* CCP!"

The appearance of Poe's daughter and grandson at the CCP gave the tumultuous controversy a happier ending than expected, so it should be celebrated.

On the other hand, it must be noted that the excessive political color given to FPJ's National Artist award, its conferment and its non-acceptance, was a far from happy denouement.

Subservient role

Sadly, it affirmed once more the subservient role that the arts are often made to play *vis-a-vis* the country's overarching obsession with politics. Stringent efforts must be made to make sure that this doesn't happen again.

The excessive focus on political color was also to be rued because it did the other awardees a distinct disservice: So much attention was focused on FPJ and the controversy railing around his award that the other awardees were roundly upstaged.

Again, this should not be allowed to happen again, because *all* of our new National Artists should be honored equally for their exceptional contributions to the nation's artistic and ethical life.

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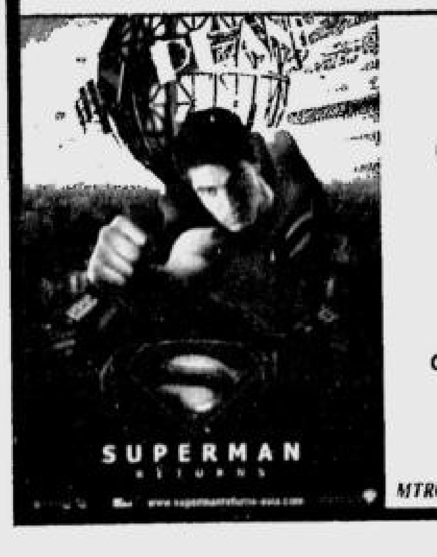

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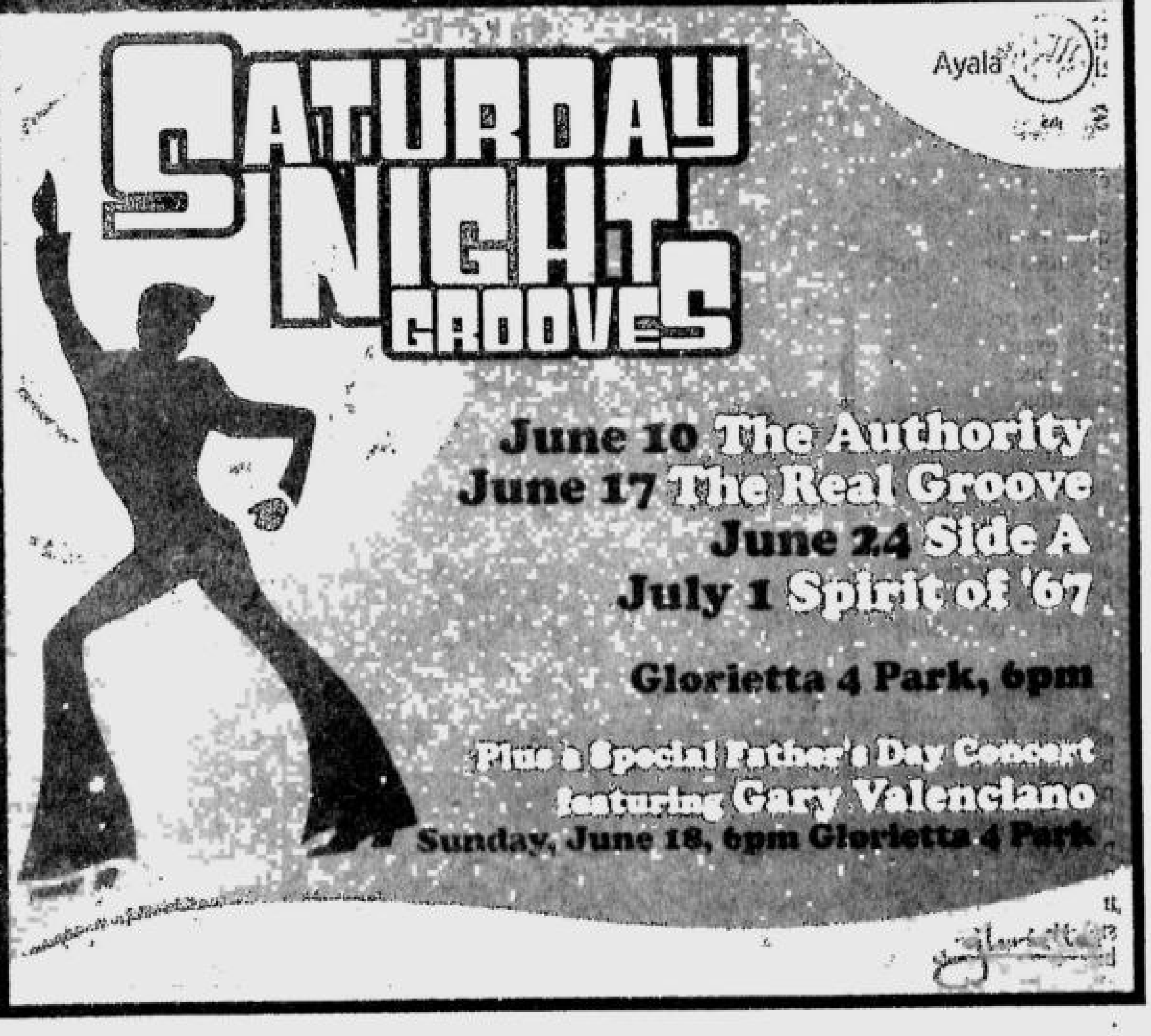

GARFIELD. Mistaken identity.

Tale of two felines

By Noelani Torre

"GARFIELD: A TALE of Two Kitties" has nothing to do with the Charles Dickens novel of (almost) the same title. Nor does it have anything to do with Mark Twain's "The Prince and the Pauper"!

This movie has none of the above-mentioned novels' themes of revolution, class struggle, sacrifice and redemption.

Fat cat

The "Garfield" sequel simply tells a story about a fat cat who goes gaga over lasagna, lives with a dog called Odie, and belongs to a guy named Jon. This time, 20th Century Fox has taken the movie's title literally: We don't just get one fat cat, but two!

Two Garfields, in fact, though one is called Prince, has an English accent, and lives in a castle in England. The entire movie—aside from the introductory scenes—is set in the UK.

In a bid to forestall his owner Jon's (Breckin Meyer) plan to get engaged to his vet girlfriend (Jennifer Love Hewitt), Garfield (voiced by Bill Murray) and Odie follow the pair to London.

Estate

Meanwhile, somewhere in the English countryside, a recently-deceased English noblewoman has bequeathed her estate to her pampered kitty, Prince, angering her nephew and heir-wannabe, Lord Dargis (Billy Connolly).

He conspires to get rid of Prince, who manages not to die. He gets lost in London, where he is mistaken for Garfield.

The same thing happens to the real fat cat, and there you have the beginning and the end of the resemblance to "The Prince and the Pauper"!

Unlike the first movie, "Garfield 2" has more action going for it, but both movies feature a bored-sounding Murray playing a sarcastic cat, and, well, that's about it.

Superfluous

Despite the more energetic scenes, most of the action sequences don't really do much for the story. Scenes of Garfield living the princely life, for example, could have been tightened, superfluous as they were.

Many of the jokes and pop-culture references fall flat on their faces. As for the actors, they do try, *but* they look like they're on Nickelodeon.

Garfield in print is cute, and funny enough, but even in his original form, he's never been known for his wit. Still, compared to this three-dimensional CGI movie image, his two-dimensional version seems like a true comedic character with unplumbed depths.

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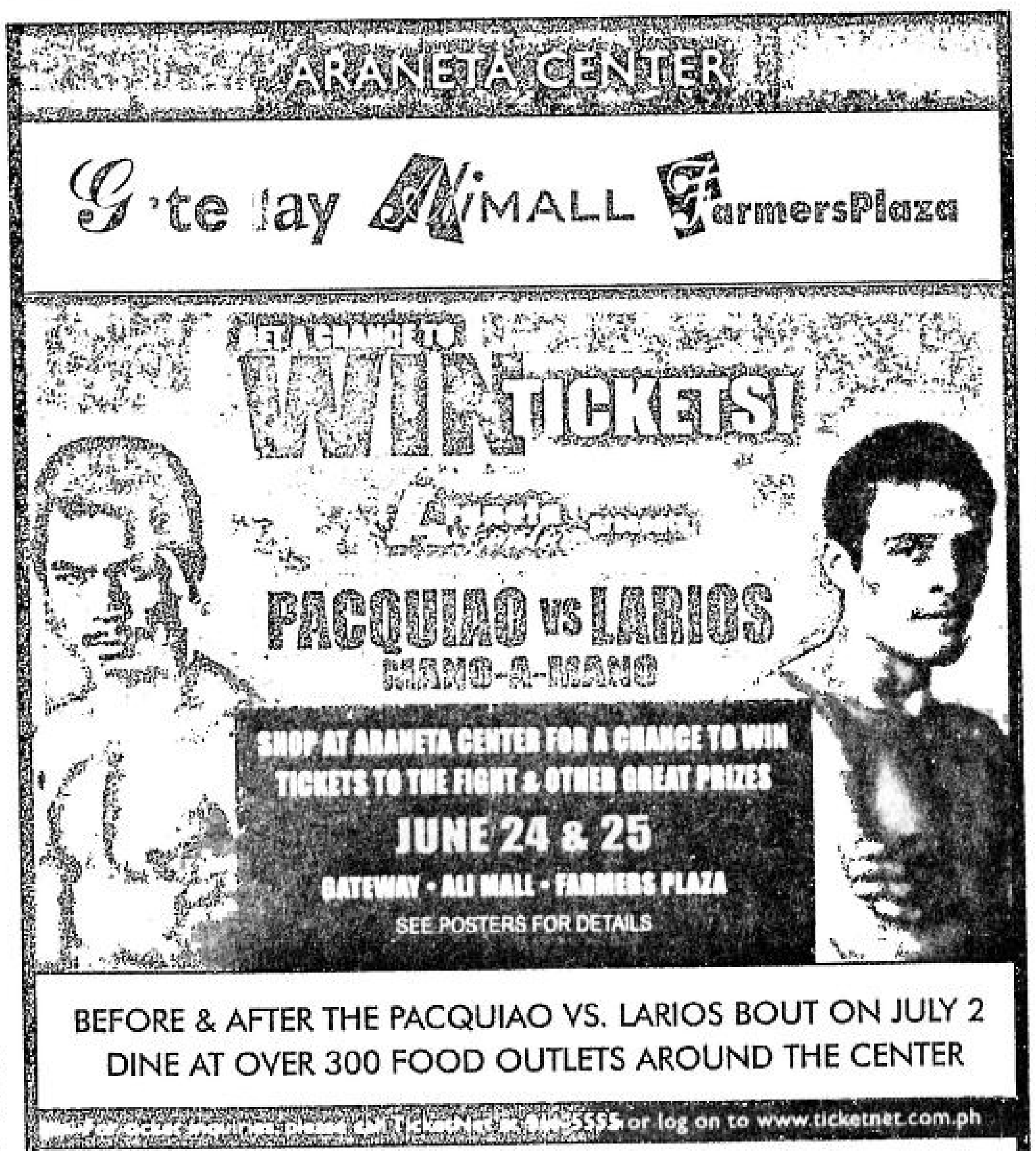
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GARFIELD :00/3:10/5:20/7:30/9:40	KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO 12:30/2:50/5:10	OMEN 666 7:30/9:50
CARS 12:20/2:45/5:10 X-MEN 3 7:40/10:00	THE LAKE HOUSE 20/3:30/5:40/7:50/10:00	THE FAST & THE FURIOUS 3 12:40/3:00/5:20/7:40/10:00

THE FAST & THE FURIOUS 3
12:05/2:25/4:45
THE LAKE HOUSE
7:00/9:10

ALI MALL CINEMAS

PACQUIAO 1:10/1:30/3:50/6:10/8:30	SCARY MOVIE 12:25/2:30/4:35/6:40/8:45	THE FAST & THE FURIOUS 3 12:10 04/1:30/3:50/6:10/8:30
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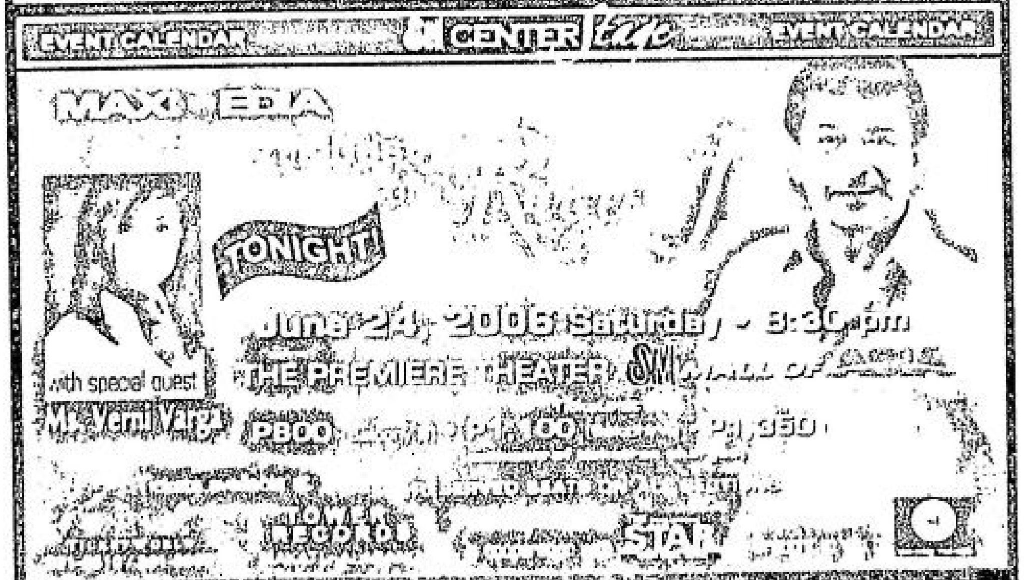
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New name in terror

MONTAGE

KANE IS SEVEN FEET TALL, WEIGHS IN AT 400 lbs, is a World Wrestling Entertainment superstar also known as The Big Red Monster—and now, he's the star of the new shocker, "See No Evil."

Kane plays Henchman from Hell Jacob Goodnight. With a rusty steel plate screwed into his skull, Jacob is a reclusive psychopath who hunts down eight juvenile delinquents and the cop who put a bullet into his head four years ago.

Directed by Gregory Stark, "See No Evil" benefits from Kane's wrestling expertise. During the action-packed shoot, he performed his own stunts and encouraged his co-stars, Luke Pegler and Michael J. Pagan, to do the same. "See No Evil" opens on July 5.

Opera gala twinbill

Two operas will be presented at the CCP on July 2. To celebrate Mozart's 250th birth anniversary. "Der Schauspieldirektor" (The Impressario) will be twinbilled with Leoncavallos' "Pagliacci."

Featured artists are tenors Jeremiah Calisang, Raymond Leslie Diaz and UP College of Music Dean Ramon Acoymo, sopranos Rina Saporsanto, Mary Ann Lanuzo and Camille Lopez, baritones Greg de Leon and Lionel Guico, and the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra, under Maestro Agripino Diestro. Tony Espejo directs.

Sponsors are the CCP, The Opera Guild Foundation of the Philippines, the UP College of Music, Manila Jockey Club, KB Productions, BPI, and Dimsum and Dumplings. Call 832-3704.

Assertiveness and Confidence Workshop

The Proactive Center is holding a "Develop Your Professional Assertiveness and Confidence Workshop" from July 19 to 21 at Ortigas Center, Pasig City. Skills to be firmed up include self-belief, communicating, business language, listening, questioning, dealing with difficult people, persuasion, and professional presence. Call 667-3369 or 70.

'North Country'

The emotionally riveting drama, "North Country," is now on DVD and video. It tells the involving story of a woman (Charlize Theron) who finds the courage to stand up for what she believes in—even if it means standing alone. Other stars are Sissy Spacek, Sean Bean, Frances McDormand and Woody Harrelson. The DVD also includes a documentary and additional scenes.

Bamboo in Tacloban City

Winston in Concert presents Bamboo at the Leyte Park Hotel, Tacloban City, tonight. Bamboo has just won a number of trophies at the recent Awit Awards. The next Winston in Concert gig on July 1 features performances by Freestyle, True Faith and Unity at Sta. Lucia Realty East Grand Mall.

Shamrock's mall tour

The Shamrock "Are You Serious" album mall tour hits SM Manila at 5 p.m., today, and SM Pampanga tomorrow. The repackaged album features the hits, "Alipin" and "Naalala Ka," and new songs, "Nandito Lang Ako," "Ako Pa Rin," "Sana," "OK Lang" and "Magtiwala Ka."

KANE. Plays reclusive psychopath in "See No Evil."

ACOYMO. Performs in Mozart opera.

Movies on TV

On HBO, June 24 at 10:55 p.m., "Carnivale 15: Ingram, TX." 11:45 p.m., "Carnivale 18: Old Cherry Blossom Road." June 25 at 4 p.m., Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban." June 26 at 1 p.m., "Ray." 11:15 p.m., "Fahrenheit 9/11." June 27 at 5:30 p.m., "Losing Isaiah." June 28 at 6:30 a.m., "Pink Cadillac." June 29 at 10:45 p.m., "Back to the Future 2." June 30 at 4:45 p.m., "All the President's Men."

On Cinemax, June 24 at 9 p.m., "Something to Talk About." June 25 at 6:30 a.m., "American Gigolo." June 26 at 8 p.m., "Philadelphia." 2:45 a.m., "The Eddie Duchin Story." June 28 at 4:20 p.m., "From Here to Eternity." 8 p.m., "Sleepless in Seattle." June 29 at 12:05 p.m., "The World of Suzie Wong." 5:45 p.m., "Lone Star." June 30 at 4:35 p.m., "Shane."

GARY AND GABRIEL VALENCIANO. Like father, like son.

Following in their dads' footsteps

By Jocelyn Valle

UNLIKE DR. EVIL, WHO HAD TO CLONE himself to have what he named Mini-Me, Gary Valenciano and Pen Medina already have carbon copies of themselves in their respective sons, Gabriel and Ping.

These fathers and sons have similar interests, tastes and quirks: "We have the same temperament," Gary offers. "We both like *siniguelds, manggang hilaw, dalandan* and apple cider vinegar that we mix with everything."

"*Magulo, kenkoy, wa*-poise, same gestures, how we walk, talk and stand . . . In short, I'm my father's Mini-Me!," exclaims Gab.

Taller

"He's not really my Mini-Me because he's taller," corrects Gary, who's an inch shorter than his six-footer, 18-year-old second child. "He looks so much like me that I had to grow a mustache to have my own identity."

Ditto for the self-deprecating Pen: "*Tuwang-tuwa ako kasi guwapo si Ping. Hindi ako kagwapuhan. Bilugan ang ilong ko, manipis ang labi. Ang ilong at labi ni Ping, bagay sa korte ng mukha niya.*"

Gab and Ping agree that they're like their fathers' shadows. "I take it as a compliment," Gab confesses, citing the rapturous reaction of concertgoers whenever Gary would make his entrance. "It doesn't get to my head, but deep inside—*yeyness!*" (laughs)

Ping, 22, on the other hand, doesn't find it fun, though he gets a kick out of seeing his dad's kiddie photo taken in his grandparents' home in Pampanga. "With the same *planchado* hair I had when I was a kid, *akala ko, ako talaga 'yun!*," he exclaims.

Better dancer

For his part, Gary isn't bothered when people tell him that Gab is the better dancer. "He makes me feel more secure," he stresses. "No father can be as proud to be sharing the stage with his son!"

For Gab, it's simply awesome to be dancing with a father who's as famous for his moves as for his music. He singles out The Shuffle as his favorite

FOLLOWING/ A3-2

HENY SISON
CULINARY SCHOOL

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

July 1(Saturday)10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m (classroom A) INTRODUCTION TO JAPANESE COOKING by: Chef Koichi Kondo, licensed cook from Ehime, Japan and food consultant to various Japanese restaurants * Learn all-time favorites Japanese dishes applicable to home & professional cooking such as: Sushi, Sashimi, Sukiyaki, Miso Soup, Tempura, Teriyaki, Udon Noodles in Clay Pot, Chicken Teriyaki & Japanese Fried Rice. P2,500

July 3(Monday)9:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m (classroom A) BASIC CAKES & ICINGS FOR BEGINNERS by: Heny Sison * Butter Cake with Butter Icing, Moist Chocolate Cake with Fudge Icing, Mocha Cake with No-Melt Butter Icing, Lemon Chiffon Cake with Boiled Icing & Sponge Cake with Whipped Cream Icing. P1,500

July 3(Monday)2:00 – 5:00 p.m.(classroom A) SOFT PRETZEL WORKSHOP by: Heny Sison *Learn how to make hand-rolled soft pretzel w/ a variety of toppings & dippings. Recipes: Cinnamon Salt, Whole Wheat Soft Pretzels, Poppy Seed, Coarse Salt, Sesame Seeds and more! Match them w/ Caramel Dip, Soft Cheese Dip & Blueberry Cream Cheese Spread. P1,500

July 3(Monday)10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m (classroom B) BASIC FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS by: Glenn Remorca, floral designer* Learn the theories, styles, trends, techniques, sourcing, flower care and maintenance, basic forms, arrangements and flowers for weddings. Lecture, demonstration and hands-on production. Bring a pair of scissors. P2,500

July 4(Tuesday)9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon(classroom A) NEW CLASS! HEALTHY GOURMET COOKING: SPA COOKING by: Jacqueline H. Alleje, owner of Rizal Dairy Farm, Swiss-Pinoy restaurateur (Vieux Chalet Swiss restaurant), organic caterer and food consultant (Petra's naturally green, global, gourmet)Techniques of lean cuisine, SPA cooking: Flavors, not calories are the prime ingredients. Learn how to include healthy dishes in your menu planning to satisfy your personal needs and/or new trends in the restaurant industry: This class is suitable for people who wants to learn more about healthy cooking as well as for restaurant and coffee shop owners Drinks: Vegetable Juice, Smoothies and home made Ice Teas, appetizers and light bites, Vegetable stock based soups, easy to cook grilled and steamed main courses, light desserts. P1,400

July 4(Tuesday)1:00 – 4:00 p.m.(classroom A) NEWCLASS! HEALTHY GOURMET: BAKED GOODIES SWEETENED WITH HONEY, MUSCOVADO AND SPLENDA by: Jacqueline H. Alleje * Cookies, muffins and tea breads free of refined white sugar, but of wholesome ingredients as healthy treats and snacks for you family, or for your business venture. Recipes: Mango Oaties, Passionfruit Drops, Cinnamon Tropical Fruit Muffins, Whole Raisin Muffin, Orange Walnut Tea Bread, Cardamom Short Breads P1,500

July 4(Tuesday)10:00 a.m – 4:00 p.m (classroom B) SIOPAO & MAMI WORKSHOP by: Chef Katherine Sion, restaurateur (Ding Hao & Fat Kat restaurant), caterer and an expert in Chinese cuisine * Chicken Bola-Bola, Asado Pao, Bola-bola Pao, Jumbo Siopao with Chinese Sausage, Chicken Asado Mami & Beef Mami P2,500

July 5(Wednesday)10:00 a.m – 4:00 p.m.(classroom A) COFFEE CLASS by: Chef Aileen Anastacio Sandoval, owner of Goodies N' Sweet Bakeshop & C'est Si Bon. Dean's list graduate of Culinary at the California Culinary Academy* If you are planning to open a coffee shop this course is for you. Learn the four fundamentals of coffee brewing, home espresso, guide to steaming & foaming. Make fun toppings & garnishes & master the art of coffee making. Recipes: Caffé Latte, Caffé Mocha, Caffé Americano, Cappuccino, Espresso Macchiato & Espresso Con Panna, Almond Coffee Freeze, Icy Rum Coffee Cream, Toffee Coffee, Mudslide Malt, Mocha Rumba, Rocky Road and more! P3,000

July 5(Wednesday)9:00 a.m – 4:00 p.m (classroom B) NEW CLASS! FOOD CART IV - HOUSE OF ENSAYMADA by: Chef Vicki Villanueva from Stars & Bizu, let Chef Vicki share with you her wealth of knowledge and experience of patisseries and restaurant concepts, skills, techniques & operations 5 new Recipes of Ensaymada: Almond Praline Ensaymada, Ensaymada Majorca, Ensaymada de Malabon, Commercial Ensaymada and Special Ube Ensaymada Demonstration w/ student participation. Reservation is a must! P2,600

July 6(Thursday)9:00 a.m.– 1:00 p.m (classroom A) JAPANESE COOKING I (All Time Favorite Japanese Recipes) by: Chef Koichi Kondo* Miso Soup, Tempura, Nimono, Yakimono, California Maki, Chilled Soba, Noodles with Nori, Skewered Dumplings with Brown Sauce. P1,700

July 6(Thursday)1:30 – 5:30 p.m.(classroom A) SUSHI CLASS by: Chef Koichi Kondo* Temaki-Zushi (Do-It Yourself Sushi Rolls), Bara-Zushi (Scattered Sushi), Inari-Zushi (Sushi Pockets), Futo-Maki Zushi (Thick-Rolled Sushi), Tekka-Maki (Hand-rolled Tuna Sushi), Kappa-Maki (Sea Cucumber Sushi) and California Maki. P1,700

July 7(Friday)10:00 a.m. –4:00 p.m (classroom A) PHILIPPINE SWEETS & DELICACIES: QUEZON/LAGUNA by: Chef Carol Acosta, Food consultant to multinational food companies & restaurants* Sinukmani, Kalamay Hati, Espasol w/ Pinipig & Young Coconut, Buko Pie, Pastillas Macapuno and Ube-Langka Pastillas P1,500

July 8(Saturday)9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m (classroom A) NEW CLASS! PHILIPPINE REGIONAL CUISINE PART 2 by: Chef Sam de Leoz, Food Consultant, Stylist, Photographer, Caterer, Food demonstrator and Culinary Competition Events Consultant specializing in Basic & Classical Cookery, International & Asian Cuisine Taste and experience the flavours of our very own popular Filipino regional delicacies. Recipes: Ilocos Spicy Kaldaretang Kambing, Baguio's Adobong Talaba, Spicy Pampangga Kuhol Ala Ajillo, Bicolano Express Pasta, Ongpin's Fresh Lumpia. Demonstration w/ student participation. P1,500

July 8(Saturday)1:00 – 5:00 p.m (classroom A) NEWCLASS! PHILIPPINE REGIONAL CUISINE PART 3 by: Chef Sam de Leoz. *Taste and experience the flavours of our very own popular Filipino regional delicacies Recipes: Bulacan's Bringhi, Bacolor Tamales, Balangas Adobo, Bicolandia Dinuguan in Smoked Coconut Milk, Ilonggo Fresh Lumpiang Ubod. Demonstration w/ student participation. P1,500

July 10(Monday)10:00 a.m – 4:00 p.m (classroom A) NEW CLASS! THEME DECOR FLOWERS ARRANGEMENTS by: Glenn Remorca * Learn the many ways to spice up your tables with theme decors from our in house florist Fantasy, masquarade, Christmas and classic pieces are just some that you can try. Open for party planners and caterers. Demo and hands on class. P3,000

July 10(Monday)9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m (classroom B) NEW CLASS! TECHNIQUES OF FINE COOKING I (Featuring Chicken) by: Chef Vicki Villanueva *Hands-on preparation and cooking of chicken. Each student shall be assigned whole chicken to butcher and debone. Learn how to grill, roast, stew, fry, sauté, steam and make sauces. Recipes include: Chicken Gallantina, Chicken Cordon Bleu, Chicken Sate, Classic Roasted Herb Chicken, Chicken Nuggets, Chicken Caesar Salad, Chicken Fricasse and Chicken Teriyaki. Maximum of 15 students only! P2,650

July 11(Tuesday)9:00 a.m – 1:00 p.m (classroom A) CHINESE SEAFOOD SPECIAL I by: Chef Katherine Sion *Crab with Sotanghon, Baked Shrimp with Garlic, Steamed Lapu Lapu with Tauso Sauce, Saute Shellfish with Tausi Sauce, Braised Beancurd with Seafood Hot Pot and Seafood Chow Fan. P2,000

July 11(Tuesday)2:00 – 5:00 p.m.(classroom A) DIMSUM 4 by: Chef Katherine Sion *Hakaw, Kutchay Dumpling, Crystal Scallop, Crisp Taro Puff, Ham Suy Kok and Triple Colored Cake P2,000

July 11(Tuesday)10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m (classroom B) NEW CLASS! PANADERO PANADERIA 1 by: Nestor Magrimbao, Baker, Ferna Corporation* Pacencia, Galletas, Otap, Biscocho, Mamon Tostado, Rosquillos, Demonstration w/ student participation. P1,500

July 12(Wednesday)10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m (classroom A) NEW CLASS! NATIVE KAKANIN: REGIONAL SPECIALTY by: Chef Carol Acosta * Bibingka Mandaue, Suman Visaya, Torta Cebuana, Binaki & Kutsinta Tejada P1,600

July 12(Wednesday)9:00 a.m – 4:00 p.m (classroom B) NEW CLASS! FOOD CART V - HOUSE OF PANDESAL by: Chef Vicki Villanueva Recipes: Baliwag Pandesal, My Moms Special Pandesal, Pandesal Putok, Egg Pandesal, Pan de Sal de Plantsa, Cheese Pandesal, Adobo Pandesal, Pizza Pandesal, Ham Cheese Pandenini. Demonstration w/ student participation. P2,500

July 13(Thursday)10:00 a.m – 4:00 p.m.(classroom A) BAKED PASTAS by: Chef Aileen Anastacio Sandoval Recipes: Beef Lasagna, Vegetable Lasagna, Chicken Macaroni, Baked Spaghetti and Baked Seafood Pasta. P1,700

July 14(Friday)10:00 a.m – 4:00 p.m (classroom A) NEW CLASS! CHINESE DELI by: Nestor Magrimbao Recipes: Dice Hopia, Tikoy, Siopao Mongo, Buchi & Moon Cake P1,600

July 15(Saturday)9:00 a.m – 12:00 noon (classroom A) HEALTHY GOURMET - SOUTH BEACH DIET PHASE 1 by: Jacqueline H. Alleje* This class is suitable for all people who want to be able to cook healthy dishes, lose weight considerably and people with health concerns such as diabetes, high blood pressure and other dietary restrictions. The class will guide you through the principles of healthy nutrition, South Beach Diet phase 1 "Swiss Pinoy Style", which uses locally available ingredients. Complete menu plan and recipes for 14 days of Phase 1. P1,500 plus P700 recipe booklet for Phase 1

July 15(Saturday)1:00 – 4:00 p.m (classroom A) HEALTHY GOURMET – SOUTH BEACH DIET COMBO CLASS PHASE 2 and 3 by: Jacqueline H. Alleje * This class is suitable for all people who want to learn how to cook healthy dishes, deepen their knowledge of nutrition and weight control, as well as people with health concerns, such as diabetes, high blood pressure, and other dietary restrictions. This class teaches wholesome recipes which reintroduce carbohydrates with complete recipe booklets for phase 2 and 3 of the South Beach Diet. P1,500plus P700 per recipe booklet

July 17(Monday)10:00 a.m. –4:00 p.m (classroom A) INTRODUCTION TO SPANISH COOKING by: Chef Ed Quimson, is a seasoned master chef of Spanish origin, creator of Chef Ed's Restaurant at Salcedo Village, Makati City and his latest restaurant FILOS at The Fort, Makati City Recipes: Croquetas, Tortilla de Patata, Salpicao, Arroz Abanda, Alioli, Callos Al Estilo, Pescado Al Panalli & Natillas (Spanish Custard) P2,500

July 17(Monday)9:00 a.m – 3:00 p.m (classroom B) NEW CLASS! HOUSE OF CHEESECAKE by: Chef Vicki Villanueva* New York Cheesecake, Japanese Cheesecake, No-Baked Cheesecake, Green Tea Tiramisu and My Best Cheesecake. P2,500

July 18(Tuesday)9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon(classroom A) NEW CLASS! KOREAN CUISINE PART 1 by: Chef Cecile Park, owner of Silla Korean Restaurant & food consultant to various Korean restaurants in Metro Manila* Bibimbap, Chap Chae, Kalbi Jim and Mi Yuk Guk (Soups: Seaweeds, Beef or Tahong). P1,500

July 18(Tuesday)1:00 – 5:00 p.m (classroom A) NEW CLASS! KOREAN CUISINE PART 2 by: Chef Cecile Park* Beef Bulgogi (Tenderloin & ordinary), Chicken Bulgogi and Pork Bulgogi. Appetizers: Togue Spinach, Dilis P1,500

July 18(Tuesday)10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.(classroom B) ROASTING CLASS by: Chef Ed Quimson* Learn from this hands-on class the treasured family recipes of Chef Ed: Roast Beef, Crown Roast of Pork, Roast Iberian Chicken, Roast Leg of Lamb w/Apricot Glaze, Roast Duckling of Black Cherry & Brandy Sauce, Roast Turkey with Corn Bread, Chorizo & Chestnut Filling. Demonstration with student participation. P4,800

July 19(Wednesday)10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m (classroom A)NEW CLASS! TWISTED PASTA SAUCES by: Chef Juan Carlo Estagle, one of our school's home-grown chefs who has proven his mettle as Executive Chef of Mezze Restaurant and Bar at Greenbelt 2, pastry consultant of Bakeshops and chef consultant to other multinational food brands. He is one of the resident chefs of IBC 13's A Taste of Life with Heny Sison: Let Carlo show you his secret inspiration in creating original "out of the box" pasta concoctions. All original recipes using ingredients like Burong Pajo, Bagoong, Camaru, Tuyo, Fish Roe, Crispy Shrimp Heads, Pili Nuts, Longganisa and more. P1,500

July 19(Wednesday)9:00 a.m – 3:00 p.m (classroom B) NEW CLASS! A PASSION FOR UBE by: Chef Vicki Villanueva * Ube Chiffon Cake w/ No-Melt Butter Cream Icing, Ube Mousse Cake, Ube Cheesecake, Ube Bar, Ube Sans Rival. P2,500

July 20(Thursday)10:00 a.m. –4:00 p.m (classroom A) SWEET BUT SUGAR FREE CAKES by: Chef Jacqueline Ang Po, Pastry Chef of Fleur de Lys Patisserie, dean's list graduate, California Culinary Academy*Classic Desserts like Strawberry Cheesecake, French Apple Pie Chocolate Cake, Banana Chocolate Muffin, Poppy Seed Cake, Carrot Bars w/ Cream Cheese Icing, Chocolate Walnut Cookies For people who are conscious of sugar intake. P1,500

July 21(Friday)9:00 a.m – 12:00 noon(classroom A) NEW CLASS! KOREAN CUISINE PART 3 by: Chef Cecile Park * Bulgogi Salad (Beef Tenderloin Barbecue with Vegetables & Sauce), Tak Salad (Chicken Salad), Haemul Pajeon (Seafood Pancake with Several Vegetable) and Chap Chae (Contemporary Restaurant Style. P1,500)

July 21(Friday)1:00 – 5:00 p.m (classroom A) NEW CLASS! KOREAN CUISINE PART 4 by: Chef Cecile Park *Kimchi (Baguio Pechay & Raddish), Samgye Tang (Ginseng Whole Chicken, Glutinous Rice & Ginseng), Taego Calbi Chim (Spareribs Stew), Tak Dori Tang (Spicy Chicken Stew) P1,500

July 22(Saturday)9:00 a.m – 4:00 p.m (classroom A) NEW CLASS! ASIAN COOKING WORKSHOP 1 by: Chef Sam de Leoz *Experience the flavors and spices from Southeast Asia and learn to prepare the dishes in quick and easy step-by-step methods at home Recipes: Oriental Salad w/ Grilled Breast of Duck, Indian Condiments and Spice Rubs, Indian Breads, Murgh Biryani, Rendang Sapi and King Dao Spicy Spare Ribs P2,500

July 24-28(Monday-Friday)9:00 a.m – 4:00 p.m.(classroom A) CAKE DECORATING COURSE III by: Heny Sison *Learn how to create a tiered wedding cake, embellishing borders, side borders, string work, filigree, fancy flowers, color flow on cookies, sugar molding, lattice for the side of the cake and tiered cake ideas. The grand finale to course 3 is an impressive wedding cake. Full participation. Prerequisite: Cake Decorating Course 1 & 2. This completes the Master Course in Cake Decorating. P8,000

July 24(Monday)9:00 a.m – 4:00 p.m.(classroom B)COFFEE SHOP DESIGNER'S CAKES by: Chef Vicki Villanueva *Introducing exciting innovations in your baked goodies. Learn to bake, assemble & finish individual cakes using chocolate, fruits and sugar. Bring your camera. Recipes: Carrot Cake with Cream Cheese Mousse, Chocolate and Hazelnut Praline Dome Cake, Banana & Chocolate Layer Cake, Chocolate Lava Cake and Strawberry Short Cake. Each student shall bring home their own finished cakes. Hans-on Class. P2,750

July 25(Tuesday)9:00 a.m – 5:00 p.m (classroom B) ARTISANAL BREAD by: Jacqueline Alleje *Nothing equals the satisfaction of home baked breads. In this class you will learn how to bake savory and sweet quick breads. This class is a must for all who wants to complete their skill of healthy cooking. This class will teach you how to prepare the most delicious healthy breads. And, if you want to turn it into a small business, we teach you how to. Recipes: Whole Wheat Sandwich Bread, Yogurt Graham, Herb-Onion-Bacon Bread, Yogurt Graham Bread, Bread Sticks, Focaccia, Whole Wheat Swiss Quark, Raisin Bread and Mango Tea Bread. P2,500

July 26(Wednesday)10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.(classroom B) JAPANESE RICE TOPPING by: Chef Koichi Kondo Recipes: *Oyako-don (Chicken & Egg on Rice), Gyudon (Beef Bowl), Tendon (Tempura Bowl), Katsu-don (Pork Cutlet Bowl), Soboro-don (Minced Chicken & Egg Bowl) Ton Teriyaki-don (Chicken Teriyaki). P1,700

July 29(Saturday)9:30 a.m – 4:00 p.m (classroom A) NEW CLASS! RAINY DAYS AND MONDAYS SOUPS, STEWS, AND CASSEROLES 2 by: Chef Sam de Leoz *Say goodbye to those rainy days and Mondays blues and say hello to 1-dish comfort foods. Recipes: New England Clam Chowder, Eggplant Roulade w/ Bolognese, Prawn Bisque, Cocido w/ Eggplant Sauce, Silhouette Pappardelle w/ Porcini Sauce and Anchovy Butter Toast, Fabada Asturiana, Minestra di Trippa Alla Piemontese. P2,200

July 31(Monday)10:00 a.m – 4:00 p.m (classroom A) NEW CLASS! GUILT-FREE SWEET TEMPTATIONS by: Chef Juan Carlo Estagle *Let Carlo show the tricks of giving in to those tempting sweets yet avoiding the fat and the carbs. Recipes include various kinds of Fat-free Yogurt Cheesecake with Fat-free crust, Fat-free Vodka Cake, Apple-Banana Bread Pudding, and Fat-free Carrot Cake. He will also show you how to whip up a totally fat-free, sugar free whipping topping from scratch P1,500

July 31(Monday)9:00 a.m – 5:00 p.m (classroom B) NEW CLASS! ITALIAN PIZZA WORKSHOP by: Heny Sison *Italian Pizza Dough, Tomato Sauce Base, White Sauce Base Recipes: Pizza Margherita, Pizza alle Acciughe, Pizza al Tonno, Pizza Verde, Pizza Bianca, Pizza Ai Quattro Formaggi. Demonstration w/ student participation. P2,000

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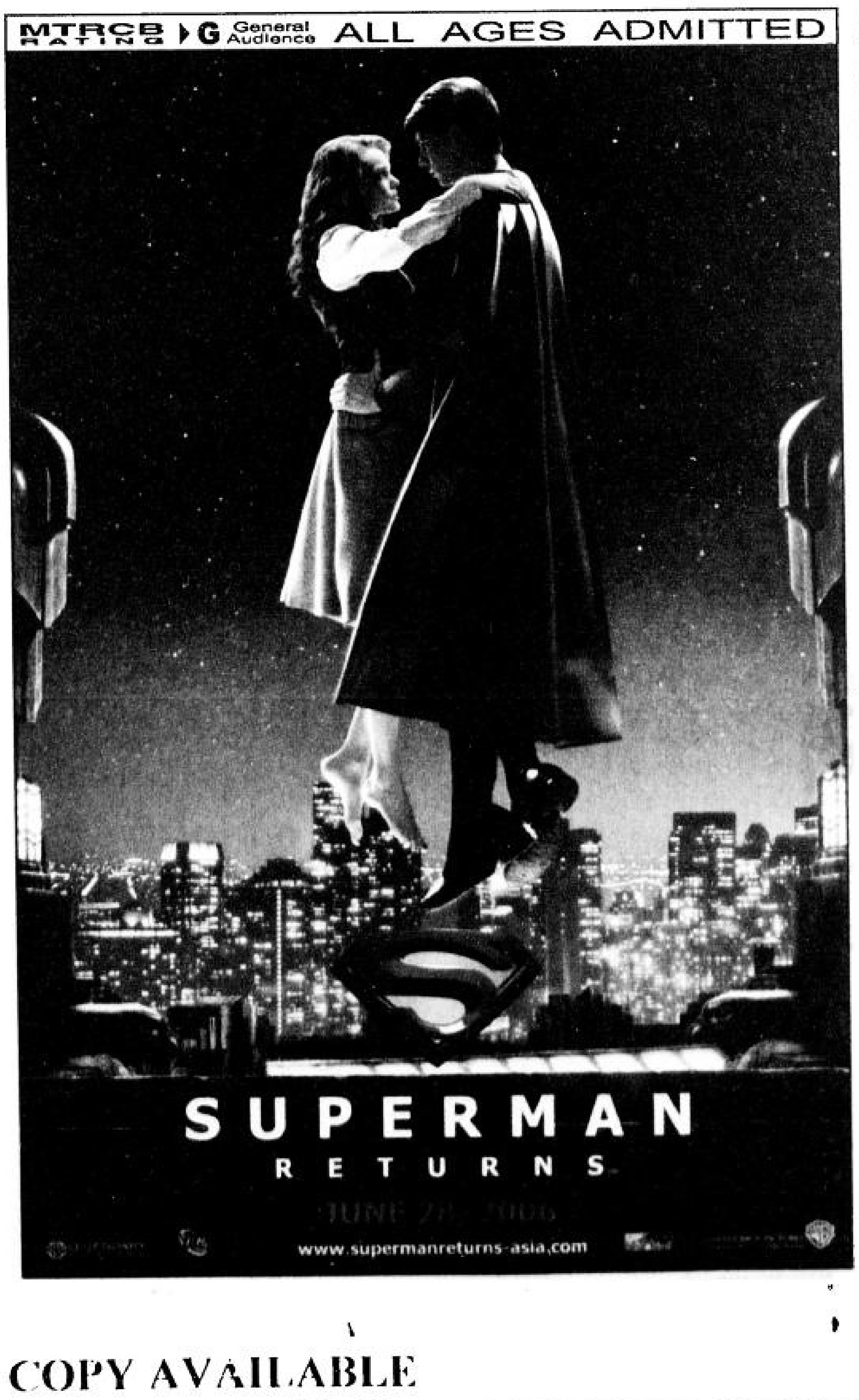
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PETRON

BPI forms banking subsidiary for OFWs

Offers 24/7 investment counseling, other money services

By Doris C. Dumlao

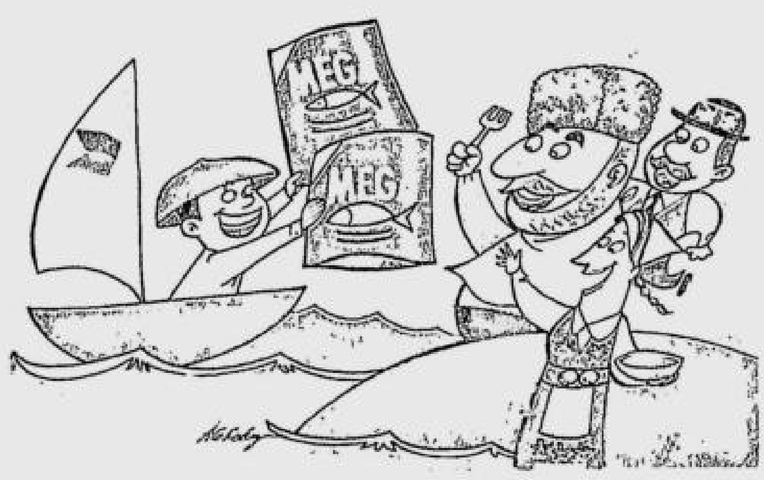
THE AYALAS' BANK OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS YESTERDAY launched a new banking subsidiary that seeks to carve a niche in the lucrative overseas Filipino workers (OFW) market.

BPI Direct Savings Bank was created with a banking license distinct from BPI Family Bank, already the country's biggest thrift bank, in line with BPI's "Expat Pinoy" (BPInoy) program that addresses the needs of Filipinos working abroad.

Capitalized at P700 million and with P1.5 billion in assets to date, BPI Direct president Raul Dimayuga said the new unit would seek out a market base of its own that would not compete with BPI and BPI Family Bank's operations since it would focus on the OFW market.

"We hope to grow to be among the biggest in the thrift bank sector in the future," Dimayuga said.

BPI/ B2



Local sardines firm eyes Eastern Europe

By Christine A. Gaylican

A NEW PACKAGING TECHNOLOGY adopted by sardine manufacturer Mega Fishing Corp. (MFC), makers of the Mega Sardines brand, has allowed the local company to penetrate the $35-million market in Eastern Europe, a top company official said.

Mega Sardines packed in pouches—the first in the Philippines—have found a niche market in Eastern Europe, particularly in Russia, according to Mega Fishing Corp. president and CEO Willian Tiu Lim.

"Our packaging innovation has opened new markets for us aside from its consistent sales in local retail stores here," Lim told the INQUIRER.

He noted that Mega Sardines in pouches have been received well during the recent trade show in Moscow, adding that the company would start exporting to Eastern Europe in the second semester.

Mega Fishing ships an average 4 to 5 containers a day (equivalent

LOCAL/ B2

WHAT'S INSIDE

RP ahead in Asean online gaming /B2

US praises RP drive vs piracy /B3

Gov't hopeful on return of foreign investors

THE PHILIPPINES IS WORKING to lure back offshore investors currently distracted by rising interest rates in the United States with sustained improvements in macroeconomic fundamentals, Finance Secretary Margarito Teves said yesterday.

Teves told reporters he was hoping that the apparent shift in market appetite away from emerging markets would be temporary and that offshore investors would take a second look at the Philippines once the uncertainties have cleared.

"As we know, it is more attractive now for capital to move to the US but I'm hoping that the market

GOV'T/ B2

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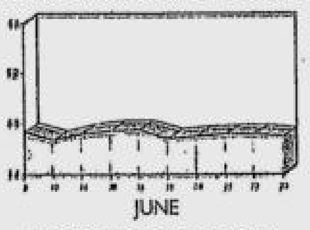


JUNE

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

P 53.26 = $1

As of 5 p.m., June 23, 2006

STOCK MARKET

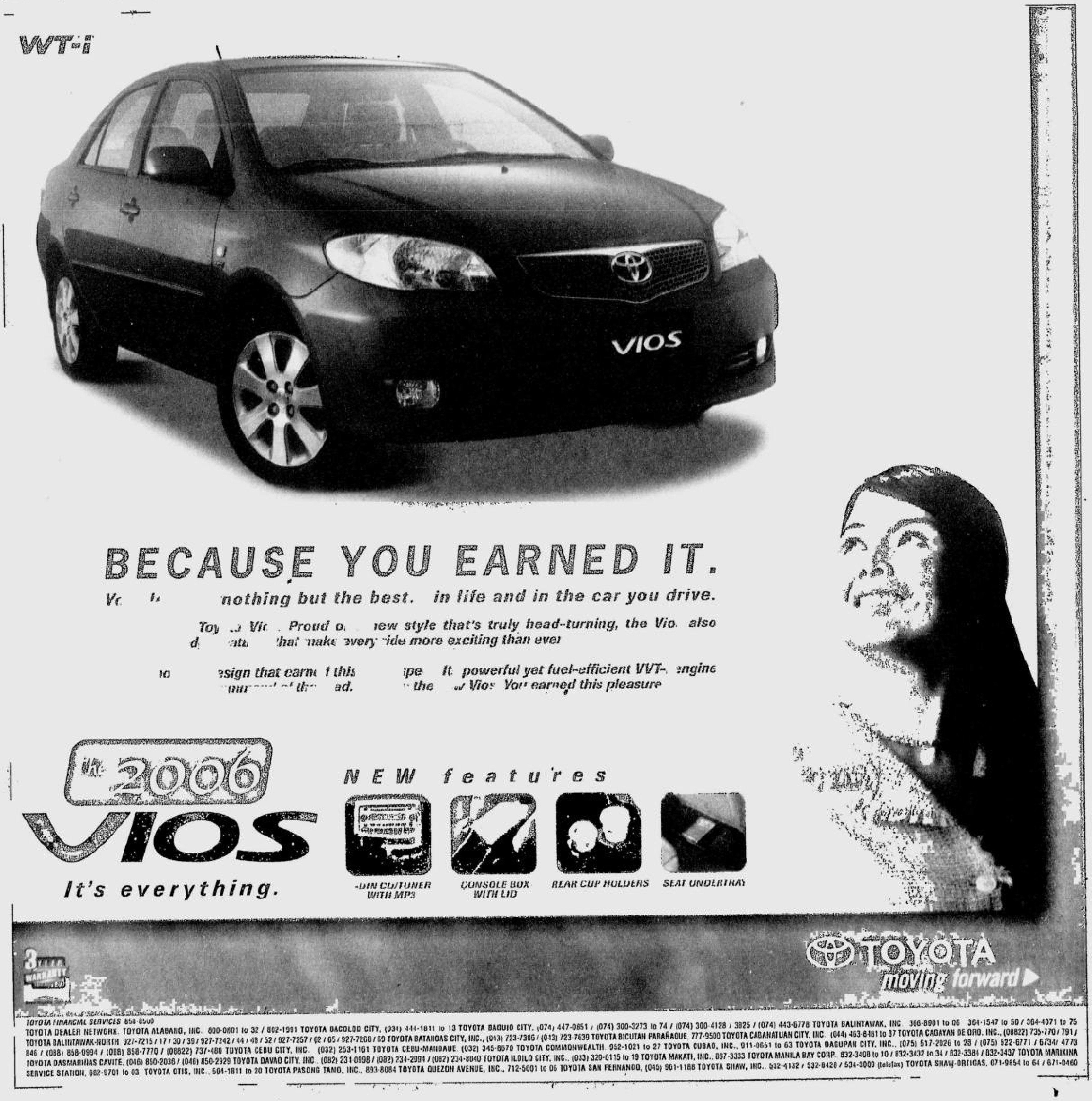
Stocks rise on bargain buying

STOCKS ROSE YESTERDAY AS investors shrugged off security concerns and continued to hunt for bargains, traders said.

The benchmark 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index gained 15.78 points, or 0.8 percent, to 2,113.17, following Thursday's 1.9-percent gain.

"We expected the market to top the week on the plus side. We still think some fund managers may have hunted for good bargains, specifically stocks that have declined to oversold levels," said Grace Cerdenia, head of operations of local brokerage house 2TradeAsia.

Gainers led decliners 39 to 34, while 45 stocks were unchanged. *AP*



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RP ahead in Asean online gaming

Philippines outstrips tech-heavy neighbors in terms of revenue growth

By Daxim L. Lucas

THE COUNTRY'S ONLINE GAMING market grew sharply last year, outpacing its peers in even the more technologically advanced Asean countries, according to a leading telecommunications research firm.

In a statement, IDC said that the online gaming market in the Philippines grew by 72 percent in terms of revenues in 2005 from the previous year's level.

Total subscription revenues reached $15.56 million, the market research outfit said.

This is, however, only a small fraction of the total market for online gaming in the Asia-Pacific, excluding Japan, which recorded a total of $1.39 billion last year.

IDC said further growth is in the cards for both the country and the region, as a whole, once service providers get to develop new avenues for the market.

"The increasing popularity of casual games has given the market another new area to spur growth," it said in its report. "While Massively Multiplayer Online Role Playing Games (MMORPGs) have been the mainstream game genre for the last few years, the space has begun to show early signs of maturity and, as such, online gaming providers have been quick to respond and address any potential saturation issues by varying game offerings to include more casual games in their product line."

"In the early days, MMORPG was the sole genre that derived revenue from content generating subscriptions," it added. "Casual online games, on the other hand, were either free or sourced revenue from advertising and sponsorships. However we've begun to see some concrete shifts towards alternative revenue streams."

In 2005, the Philippines held a 1.1-percent market share of the region's total subscription revenues, according to IDC. The region's market is expected to grow at a compound annual growth rate of 21 percent from 2006 to 2010, reaching $3.6 billion by 2010.

Also, the region's market is expected to breach the $2-billion mark by 2007, with the entry of several new countries into the region's online gaming scene, specifically India, Indonesia and Vietnam.

BIR checks out non-operating firms

By Michelle V. Remo

THE BUREAU OF INTERNAL Revenue is set to conduct a nationwide investigation of corporate taxpayers claiming to have stopped business operations.

Nestor Valeroso, head of the BIR's Quezon City office, said that in one district in Quezon City alone, there were over a thousand firms that had declared to have stopped operations this year.

He said the huge number of firms that made such a claim was doubtful.

Valeroso, who has initiated the conduct of investigations in Quezon City, said Revenue Commissioner Jose Mario Buñag had agreed to widen the scope of the investigation, carrying it out nationwide, as a means to improve the revenue agency's tax collection.

Valeroso noted that false claims of "no operations" results in a double whammy for the government. Not only do false claims allow firms to escape payment of taxes, it also poses the danger of their clients' asking for input VAT credits from the government.

He said the BIR would enhance its database to closely monitor whether the receipts used by taxpayers to claim input VAT credits are valid.

Valeroso said that cleaning up the BIR's database is necessary so that the revenue agency will be alerted every time a receipt presented by a taxpayer for credit claims is issued by a company that has already declared "no operations."

"This is one of the programs the BIR will do to increase tax collection and work on meeting the full-year target," Valeroso told the INQUIRER.

The BIR is tasked to collect P675.4 billion this year, 25 percent higher than that of last year's actual collection of P542 billion.

The BIR is pressured to come up with measures to raise more taxes to meet its full-year target despite the shortfall posted in the first five months of the year.

BIR data showed that in the January-to-May period, tax collection stood at P268 billion, lower than the P272.2-billion target.

Meanwhile, the BIR has also extended the deadline for this year's No-Audit Program (NAP) until the end of the month, saying the measure has drawn interest from more taxpayers and is seen to help shore up the BIR's tax collection.

NAP is a program that encourages taxpayers, especially delinquent ones, to voluntarily remit and increase their income tax payments in exchange for being allowed to escape tax audit by the BIR.

NAP is an annual program that will cover taxable periods 2004 to 2008. To escape tax audit under the NAP, the BIR said, a major requirement is for a taxpayer to increase its income tax payment by 20 percent year-on-year.

For 2005 income tax liabilities, application for NAP was supposedly set only until May 15, 2006.

But the BIR, through Revenue Regulation No. 7-2006, has extended the deadline until June 30.

The BIR said the extension was made following a substantial number of requests from taxpayers, who want to avail of the program but have missed the deadline.

The NAP is consistent with the BIR's strategy of compromising with delinquent taxpayers for the government to immediately raise much-needed revenues and meet the P675.4 billion tax collection target for this year.

After Keppel, GE now eyeing Bankard

By Doris C. Dumlao

AFTER EARLIER BUYING OUT Keppel Monte Bank, American global conglomerate General Electric plans to further expand its interests in the Philippines by buying out publicly listed credit card issuer Bankard Inc. from the Yuchengcos.

GE Consumer Finance, which recently launched its Philippine banking platform GE Money Bank, proposed to acquire all of the assets and certain liabilities of Bankard's credit card issuing and merchant acquiring businesses.

Bankard yesterday disclosed to the Philippine Stock Exchange that its board of directors had accepted GE's proposal. But for the deal to push through, the imprimatur of Bankard stockholders will still be needed.

The credit issuer did not disclose the price considered for the transaction.

On July 28, the proposal shall be presented to stockholders during a meeting.

GE is bullish on banking opportunities in the Philippines—the first Asian country where it acquired a banking platform.

GE Consumer Finance bought out the 30-branch Keppel Monte Bank from Singapore's Keppel group for about P1.45 billion in December last year.

Earlier, the Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. of the Yuchengcos family wanted to nullify its acquisition of Bankard from Equitable PCIBank on grounds that it had overpaid the bank in 1999.

In a petition to the Paris-based International Chamber of Commerce, RCBC Capital sued for about P810 million in damages plus interest.

RCBC Capital claimed it had overpaid EPCIB by about P600 million when it shelled out a total of P1.78 billion for 67 percent of Bankard.

EPCI Bank was sued for alleged breach of its warranties, including the fair and accurate presentation of its financial condition in 1999.

PSALM to hedge part of $7-B debt

By Abigail L. Ho

TO PROTECT ITSELF FROM THE effects of foreign exchange fluctuations, the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. (PSALM) intends to do a currency hedge of between $300 million and $500 million of its outstanding obligations this year.

In an interview with reporters yesterday, PSALM president Nieves Osorio said that the government agency is now in talks with three to four foreign banks for the transaction.

"We're looking at the different currencies, so we can swap with another currency that will likely give us the least cost," Osorio said. "We've shortlisted three to four banks, all of which are not asking for any national government guarantee."

Right now, she said, PSALM is looking at just a currency hedge. It is not considering other hedging structures, such as those that have to do with interest rates and the tenor of loans.

"We won't be touching the terms, just the currencies," Osorio said.

As of end-2005, PSALM's outstanding debts were placed at $7.01 billion or P372 billion. At end-2004, these debts were pegged at $6.66 billion, a net increment of around $400 million.

Of the total debts, Osorio said 55 percent were in US dollars, 37 percent in yen, 5 percent in pesos, and the rest in other currencies.

Also, PSALM will again be tapping the debt market to raise $700 million to fund the National Power Corp.'s maturing obligations this year.

Osorio said PSALM had actually wanted to raise a higher amount "because we don't know what will happen to the market next year, and we don't know if we can borrow again (at that time).

"The issue is more the market than our cash flows as, based on a recent discussion with the (Department of Finance), they think we only need that much."

The DOF is still reviewing the amount that PSALM has to raise for Napocor this year, she said.

Osorio added that what PSALM and the DOF have agreed on is that PSALM will be borrowing on its own and will not piggyback on the national government.

Napocor, through PSALM, last year borrowed close to $800 million to finance its maturing obligations, as well as its capital expenditures and general funding requirements.

Planters Bank announces merger with microlender

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE TAMBUNTING FAMILY'S Planters Development Bank, the country's largest private development bank, is set to merge with Davao-based microfinance lender Micro Enterprise Bank (MEB) through a share swap deal.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Deputy Governor for bank supervision and examination Nestor Espenilla Jr. yesterday told reporters that the BSP's policy-making Monetary Board had approved the merger in principle during its meeting on Thursday.

Espenilla said Planters Bank would absorb the operations of MEB. Bullish on prospects for microfinance lending in the Philippines, Planters Bank earlier took over management control of MEB from a German partner.

It bought out the Germans' shares after the former partners decided to refocus their investment and concentrate in South America and Eastern Europe.

Remaining as minority partners in MEB are the International Finance Corp. and the Dutch government-controlled Netherlands Development Finance Co.

PlantersBank chair and CEO Jesus Tambunting said MEB, an institution that supports the working and entrepreneurial poor, had big potential and should be expanded "in a big way."

"Microfinance has been proven to be successful all over the world," Tambunting said. "The collection ratio is about 94-95 percent, and if you're down to 90 percent, you're doing badly."

Planters Bank has total consolidated assets of P30 billion, capital of P2.9 billion and network of 70 branches. It has specialized on SME lending over the last 40 years.

BPI forms banking subsidiary . . .

From page B1

While other banks tap the overseas Filipino market only for the remittances or cash transfer business, Dimayuga said BPI Direct would immediately provide as "pabaon" or send-off package to Filipino expats an international automated teller machine card, a BPI Mastercard credit card and a 24/7 counseling service to assist them in managing their finances.

To date, BPI estimates that it has cornered about a quarter of the OFW remittance market, making it among the top three players.

"BPI has realized that there are eight million Filipinos out there and while other banks are focused on competing on remittances, we want to service their total requirements," Dimayuga said.

For instance, he said the new savings bank had tied up with affiliate Avida, a unit of Ayala Land Inc., to provide special housing financing for this market. Given the huge potential of its targeted niche, BPI Direct expects to grow its deposit and loan portfolio by 50 percent a year.

He said BPI Direct would like to see more households, which are benefiting from overseas remittances, save more money in banks instead of spending everything on consumption.

Based on a Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas survey on Metro Manila-based households, only about 11 percent of households supported by OFWs attempt to invest in stocks or any private business but a larger 39 percent keep savings in banks and other depository institutions.

Gov't hopeful on return . . .

From page B1

will normalize compared to what we've seen in previous months," said Teves, who graced the launching of the Bank of the Philippine Islands' new bank for overseas Filipino workers, BPI Direct Savings.

"If we continue to improve on our market fundamentals, the Philippines would be among the serious countries to consider if they decide to move back their capital to emerging markets," he said.

As such, Teves said peso-denominated government securities would again be able to attract more foreign investors.

"I'm hoping that things will change in the next few weeks," he said.

At present, fund managers are selling assets in emerging markets on expectations of further increases in US interest rates, contrary to earlier hopes that the two-year monetary tightening in the world's biggest economy was at its tailend.

With a few days to go before the end of the first semester, Teves said the Department of Finance was working double-time to attain its revenue targets and sustain the over-performance in its cash budget position. *Doris C. Dumlao*

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of June 23, 2006)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
FINANCIAL					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	33	33	32	32.5	279,200
Bank of the Phil. Islands	45	47	45	46	1,423,600
China Banking Corp.	860	860	860	860	1,080
Citystate Savings Bank	20.5	20.5	20.5	20.5	300
Export and Ind. Bank A	0.38	0.39	0.38	0.38	1,090,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	72.5	72.5	72	72.5	92,300
International Exch. Bank	41.5	41.5	41.5	41.5	50,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	31	32	31	31	755,200
Philippine National Bank	32	32	32	32	52,500
Phil. Savings Bank	39	39	39	39	5,000
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	17	17	17	17	9,000
Security Bank Corp.	42.5	43	42	42	156,700
Union Bank of the Phil.	42	42.5	42	42.5	15,000
OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
Bankard Inc.	0.73	0.85	0.73	0.75	790,000
First Metro Invest. Corp.	31	31	31	31	10,000
Ivantage Corp.	1.26	1.28	1.24	1.24	1,682,000
INDUSTRIAL					
ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
First Gen Corp.	42	42.5	42	42.5	53,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	43.5	44	43.5	44	39,900
Manila Electric Co. A	14	14	14	14	10,100
Manila Electric Co. B	21	21.25	20.75	21	118,200
Manila Water Co. Inc.	7.1	7.3	7.1	7.2	1,488,000
Petron Corp.	3.7	3.75	3.65	3.7	2,637,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.94	0.94	0.94	0.94	10,000
FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.05	3.05	3	3	17,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	23.25	23.25	22.75	22.75	70,600
Jollibee Foods Corp.	31	31.5	31	31	462,500
Pancake House Inc.	4.7	4.8	4.7	4.8	168,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	2.65	2.75	2.65	2.65	273,000
San Miguel Corp. A	64	65	64	65	52,200
San Miguel Corp. B	73	73.5	72.5	73.5	63,300
Phil Tob Flue Cur & Redry	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	6,000
Universal Robina Corp.	18.25	18.25	18	18.25	1,049,500
Vitarich Corp.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	200,000
CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
Southeast Asian Cement	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.27	1,350,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	1.3	1.38	1.3	1.34	6,800,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	4.45	4.45	4.45	4.45	79,000
CHEMICALS					
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	50,000
DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
Picop Resources Inc.	0.065	0.065	0.06	0.06	5,500,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	340	350	337.5	347.5	145,410
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.56	0.58	0.56	0.58	5,600,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	5.2	5.3	5.2	5.3	1,214,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.024	0.024	0.023	0.023	6,400,000
A. Soriano Corp.	1.84	1.86	1.84	1.84	618,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	27,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.94	1.06	0.94	1.06	7,590,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	9.8	9.8	9.8	9.8	1,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1	1.02	1	1	5,645,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	3.65	3.65	3.6	3.6	193,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	2.7	2.85	2.7	2.85	77,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	5.4	5.5	5.4	5.5	192,000
Pacifica	0.009	0.009	0.009	0.009	2,000,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	500,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.125	0.125	0.12	0.12	4,800,000
SM Investments Corp.	214	215	213	215	23,280
South China Resources Inc.	0.72	0.75	0.72	0.75	410,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	100,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	11	11.25	10.75	11.25	6,714,900
Belle Corp.	1.04	1.06	1.04	1.04	1,354,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	30,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	1.9	1.94	1.88	1.9	1,377,000
C & P Homes Inc.	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	120,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	2,100,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.57	0.57	0.57	0.57	4,770,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.03	0.031	0.03	0.031	1,200,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.28	1.3	1.28	1.28	6,433,000
Gotesco Land Inc.	0.0525	0.0525	0.05	0.05	800,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	2.95	3	2.95	3	15,000
Interport Res.	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	7,000,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.38	1.4	1.38	1.4	5,458,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.21	0.215	0.21	0.215	3,850,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.205	0.21	0.205	0.21	250,000
Primex Corp.	3.65	3.65	3.65	3.65	70,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	10	10	9.9	9.9	11,000
Phil Realty And Holdings	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	400,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.3	7.4	7.3	7.4	1,959,000
MEDIA					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	18,700
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	290,000
TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	1.18	1.22	1.18	1.22	3,173,000
Globe Telecom Inc	910	910	900	910	88,320
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	3.3	3.45	3.3	3.4	1,264,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1800	1800	1790	1800	24,550
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	200,000
Ionics Inc.	2.24	2.26	2.2	2.2	839,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.0525	0.0525	0.0525	0.0525	1,000,000
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.16	1.16	1.16	1.16	100,000
Transpacific Broadband	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	100,000
Philweb Corp.	0.031	0.031	0.03	0.03	199,100,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	13.25	13.25	13	13.25	408,400
HOTEL & LEISURE					
Acesite Phils Hotel Corp.	4.65	4.65	4.65	4.65	190,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc	0.58	0.6	0.58	0.59	9,640,000
EDUCATION					
Far Eastern University	1000	1000	1000	1000	40
iPeople Inc.	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	5,000
DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
Macroasia Corp.	2.02	2.02	1.98	1.98	88,000
Paxys Inc	9.9	9.9	9.9	9.9	45,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	22,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	7	7.9	6.8	7.8	6,220,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.29	0.29	0.28	0.29	1,160,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.32	0.34	0.32	0.34	440,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.021	0.022	0.021	0.022	123,200,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.023	0.024	0.023	0.024	65,900,000
Omico Corp.	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	142,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	3.95	3.95	3.85	3.9	7,633,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	3.8	4	3.8	3.9	7,576,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	30	30	29	29.5	213,200
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.35	0.39	0.35	0.39	1,110,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.55	0.57	0.54	0.57	760,000
OIL					
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	900,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.009	0.009	0.009	0.009	33,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0095	0.0095	0.0095	0.0095	39,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	1.14	1.26	1.14	1.26	6,089,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	1.14	1.28	1.14	1.26	2,019,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	18.25	19	18.25	18.5	613,400
PREFERRED					
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Q	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series R	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,600
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	900
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	300
WARRANTS, PHIL. DEPOSIT RECEIPTS, ETC.					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	14	14.25	14	14.25	24,600

CURRENCIES

June 23, 2006 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.794849	1.000000	53.2320
Japan	Yen	0.006844	0.008611	0.4584
United Kingdom	Pound	1.453382	1.828500	97.3347
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.102346	0.128761	6.8542
Switzerland	Franc	0.639614	0.804699	42.8357
Canada	Dollar	0.710765	0.894214	47.6008
Singapore	Dollar	0.497714	0.626174	33.3325
Australia	Dollar	0.584362	0.735186	39.1354
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.109025	2.653364	141.2439
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.211937	0.266638	14.1937
Brunei	Dollar	0.496161	0.624220	33.2285
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000085	0.000107	0.0057
Thailand	Baht	0.020672	0.026008	1.3845
UAE	Dirham	0.216421	0.272279	14.4940
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.258100	66.9712
Argentina	Peso	0.258698	0.325468	17.3253
Brazil	Real	0.355478	0.447227	23.8068
Denmark	Kroner	0.134105	0.168717	8.9811
India	Rupee	0.017283	0.021744	1.1575
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.217469	0.273598	14.5642
Mexico	New Peso	0.069437	0.087359	4.6503
New Zealand	Dollar	0.485256	0.610501	32.4982
South Africa	Rand	0.108960	0.137082	7.2971
Korea	Won	0.000832	0.001047	0.0557
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.024382	0.030675	1.6329

Local sardines firm . . .

From page B1

to 80 metric tons) to other European countries such as the United Kingdom, Italy and Sweden.

"There is also a potential market in South America for our sardines," he added.

Mega Sardines are making waves not only in the Philippines but in other parts of the globe as well, notably in the United States, Canada, Hong Kong, and parts of the Middle East. Mega Fishing's products have HACCP (Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point) and Halal food certifications.

Lim said the company invested P20 million to acquire the new packaging innovation, with the technical assistance of the Department of Science and Technology in 2004.

He said the sardine manufacturing industry had been affected by the rising prices of tin plates, which are all imported.

The Department of Trade and Industry has encouraged producers and distributors of consumer food items to come up with alternative packaging materials that could substantially reduce production cost.

"Our so-called retortable pouches could be reheated at 117 degrees for the convenience of the consumers," he said.

The 110-gram pack costs about P8.40 to P9 in retail stores.

The official said that Mega Fishing would introduce 1- to 2-kilo packs of sardines in pouches to cater to industrial customers such as restaurants and hotels.

Mega Fishing is a commercial deep-sea purse seine fishing company based in Zamboanga City. Incorporated in 1995, it has about 800 employees.

US praises RP drive vs piracy

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE UNITED STATES HAS PRAISED THE government's "great effort" to put a stop to piracy and copyright infringement.

Intellectual Property Office Director General Adrian S. Cristobal Jr. said yesterday that Washington's commendation was relayed through David Katz, the US Trade Representative's director for Southeast Asia and Pacific Affairs

In a meeting last Monday, Katz said that the US particularly recognized the strengthened coordination among the agencies involved in the campaign against piracy, trademark infringement and copyright violations.

This coordination resulted in the seizure of about P400 million worth of counterfeit products during the first five months.

Cristobal said the US was aware of the government's sustained enforcement campaign on IPR through its various units, including the Bureau of Customs, Philippine National Police, National Bureau of Investigation and the Optical Media Board.

Further, Katz said that the US was willing to work with Philippine authorities on its IPR protection, including information and education campaigns and the training of IPR workers.

The official also suggested the possible inclusion of piracy in the government program against tax evasion, which the US is supporting through the so-called Millennium Development funds.

For his part, Cristobal said the promotion of IPR was being undertaken as part of the government's anti-poverty program and would be kept up "irrespective of the USTR's observation on the country."

He said protecting and promoting IPR would spur the economy further by stimulating innovation and attracting investments that would create jobs and help expand the tax base.

Cristobal also said that the government would sustain the tempo on its enforcement campaign, under which 34 convictions have been rendered.

Last week, Cristobal said a P50-million haul of counterfeit goods was seized last month under the IPO's stepped up efforts.

The haul included shoes, bags, wearing apparels, school supplies, novelty items and watches illicitly branded with Lacoste, Adidas, Fila, Reebok, Puma, Polo Ralph Lauren, Nokia, Nike and Swatch.

Fresh produce sales rising, expert says

THE GROWING PREFERENCE OF ASIAN consumers for getting fresh produce from supermarkets instead of wet markets has prompted one of the world's leading organizers of trade exhibitions to start one focused on that sector in this continent.

Gerald Lamusse, a global brand manager at Messe Berlin GmbH, said in an interview that this change in consumer behavior was driving up business for producers, traders and buyers of fresh fruits and vegetables worldwide.

Lamusse visited the country for yesterday's promotional launching of Asia Fruit Logistica, the first such international marketing fair to be held in Bangkok, Thailand, in September next year.

The trade fair will be held every year from then on, with the next venues chosen depending on developments in the international market.

The expo takes off from the original Fruit Logistica that is usually held in Europe and has been running for the past 15 years.

Lamusse said the rapid growth and development of the Asian market has spawned the need for a dedicated venue where those involved in the trade of fresh produce could get information and insight on the sector as well as business contacts.

"The (expo) will be the best way for them to obtain these factors," he said.

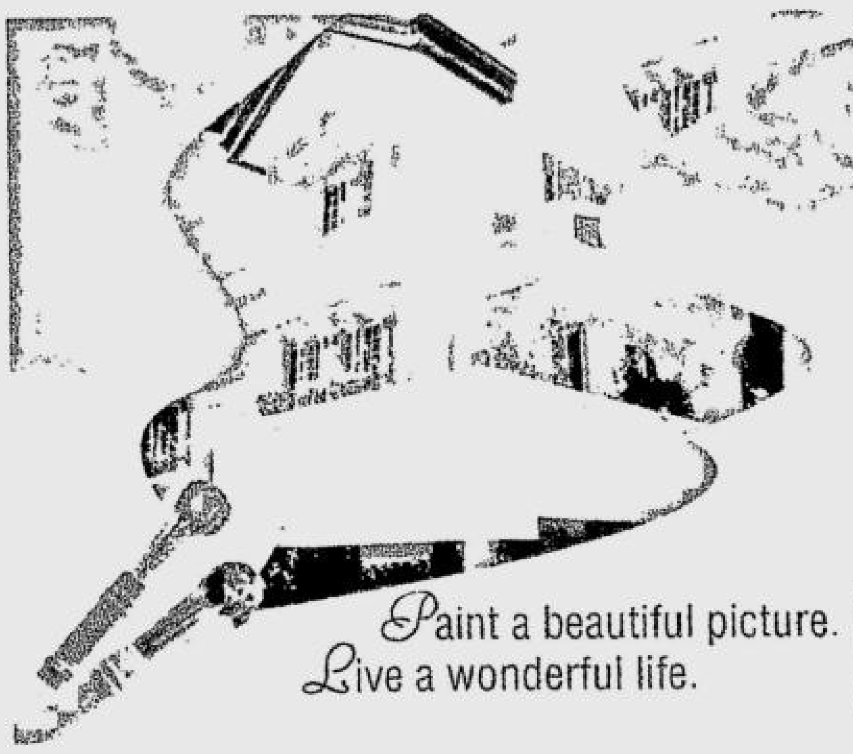
Lamusse said that, for example, producers or traders of fruits and vegetables would get to know possible business partners and how others are running their business.

"Maybe it used to be that pineapple is a good item to get into, but maybe now it is mango (in which the Philippines is a significant player)," he added.

He said further that while the expo was "in Asia and for Asia," companies and organizations-smaller ones or those already established--from every continent and every sector of the fresh produce trade would take part.

"Already we have confirmations from exhibitors based in South Africa, South America, Europe and the United States," Lamusse said.

Also, the expo would coincide with the Asia Fruit Congress, an annual conference that has been running for the past 10 years. *Ronnel W. Domingo*



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Model	SRP	Low D/P	24 mos.	36 mos.	48 mos.	60 mos.
Adventure GLX Gas	733,000	89,950	30,491	21,729	17,389	14,969
Adventure GLS Sport - Gas M/T	830,000	84,500	34,526	24,604	19,690	16,950
Adventure GLS Sport - Gas A/T	883,000	112,450	36,731	26,175	20,947	18,032
Adventure GLS Sport - Diesel	830,000	79,500	34,526	24,604	19,690	16,950
Adventure Super Sport - Diesel Std.	871,000	120,650	36,231	25,820	20,602	17,787

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50% D/P	12 mos	18 mos.	24mos.	36 mos	48 mos.	60 mos.
366,500	30,542	21,291	17,004	12,117	9,697	8,348
415,000	34,583	23,056	18,445	13,145	10,519	9,055
441,500	37,833	25,894	20,674	14,733	11,790	10,150
415,000	34,583	23,056	17,292	12,978	10,386	8,941
435,500	38,174	26,127	20,847	14,856	11,889	10,234

- All plans subject to bank approval
- Other plans available through other banks
- Figures in bold represent ZERO interest Plans

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INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

IAEB No. 2006-020 - Goods

ACQUISITION OF FURNITURE & EQUIPMENT FOR BRANCH TELLERING PROJECT (4th PHASE)

Project Description	Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) & Source of Fund	Date/Time		Price of Bids Documents (non-refundable)
		Pre-bid Conference	Deadline Opening of 3 Envelopes/ Bids	
Supply, delivery & installation of 113 Teller's Booth and Accessories to various SSS Branches	P12,214,410.00 CAPEX: Furniture & Equipment	July 07, 2006 2:30 p.m.	July 21, 2006 2:00 p.m.	P10,000.00
Supply, delivery & installation (actual location) of fifty (50) units Fireproof Cash Vault to various SSS Branches	P2,622,200.00 CAPEX - Furniture & Equipment	July 07, 2006 3:00 p.m.	July 21, 2006 2:30 p.m.	P2,500.00
Supply, delivery & installation of (actual location) of fifty (50) units Money/Bill Counter to various SSS Branches	P1,750,000.00 CAPEX: Furniture & Equipment	July 07, 2006 3:30 p.m.	July 21, 2006 3:00 p.m.	P1,500.00

1 Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at bid opening.

2 The SSS now invites Bids from eligible bidders for the proposed acquisition of the above equipment. Supply, delivery and installation of the GOODS are required within **forty-five (45) calendar days** after contract signing/receipt of Purchase Order (PO). The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, Instruction to Bidders (ITB).

3 Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section I of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.

4 Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the ***SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM*** and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from Monday to Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

5 A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee. The method of payment will be on a cash basis payable at the SSS Cashiering Department, SSS Main Bldg., Ground floor, upon accomplishment of SSS Form R-6. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

6 The Pre-Bid Conference shall be held at the Green Room, 12th Floor, SSS Main Bldg., East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City.

7 Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered at the Green Room, 12th Floor, SSS Main Building on the deadline specified above. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form and amount indicated in the Bid Tender Documents. Late Bids shall not be accepted.

8. Bid opening shall be held at the Green Room, 12th Floor, SSS Main Bldg., East Avenue Diliman, Quezon City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the given address

9. The ***SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM*** reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Bid and Awards Committee
The Secretariat
6th Floor, SSS Main Building
East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
Tel # 922-2991; 924-7380; 920-6401 local 5491
Email – bac@sss.gov.ph
Facsimile number – (02) 924-7380

THE CHAIRMAN
BIDS & AWARDS COMMITTEE

(PDI - June 24, 2006)

TransCo
National Transmission Corporation

SECTION I. INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Republic of the Philippines
National Transmission Corporation

SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF
JET A-1 AVIATION FUEL (for One Year)
Ref. No. PB060329-PP0047

1. The *NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION, Head Office Region* (TRANSCO-HO) through the *2006 Corporate Budget approved by the TransCo Board*, intends to apply the sum of **Php 16,360,313.90** being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for *PR No.: ATO-06-000016256*. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
2. The *TRANSCO-HO* now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the *supply and delivery of Jet A-1 fuel*. Delivery of the GOODS is required as follows : ***Into-plane Deliveries : within 24 hours from receipt of notice from TransCo; Drum Deliveries: within five (5) calendar days from receipt of notice from TransCo***. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
4. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from ***June 24, 2006 to July 20, 2006*** at the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of ***Php 2,000.00***. The method of payment will be ***Cash***. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
5. The *TRANSCO-HO* will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on ***July 5, 2006/9:00 a.m.*** at the *address below. Requests for clarifications on the bid documents should be submitted before the Pre-bid Conference.*
6. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before ***July 21, 2006/10:00 a.m.*** All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in any of the following forms and amount or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. Late Bids shall not be accepted:

FORM OF SECURITY	AMOUNT
1 Cash, certified check, cashier's check, manager's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit (1% of ABC)	PhP 163,603.14
2. Bank guarantee (1.5% of ABC)	PhP 245,404.71
3. Surety Bond (2.5% of ABC)	PhP 409,007.85
4. Foreign government guarantee	PhP 16,360,313.90

7 Bid opening shall be on ***July 21, 2006/10:00 a.m.*** at the ***Admin Conference Room same address below***. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.

8. The *National Transmission Corporation* reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

National Transmission Corporation, Head Office Region
Mr. Armando N. Ochoa, BAC Chairman
MMD Office, Ground Floor, TransCo Main Bldg.
Power Center, Quezon Avenue
corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. No.: (632) 981-2207 / Fax No. (632) 922-8432
Website: www.transco.ph

(Sgd.) ARMANDO N. OCHOA
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – June 24, 2006)

Trans Co

Republic of the Philippines
National Transmission Corporation
South Luzon Operations and Maintenance

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

Construction of Lineman's /Operator's Villa at Batangas Substation

[TRANS-06-CLVBS-EG-04-PB2]

The ***NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION-SLOM***, through the *Internal Cash Generation (ICG)* intends to apply the sum of *Three Million Four Hundred Eighty Seven Thousand Four Hundred Forty Five & 82/100 (Php3,487,445.82)* being the Approved Budget for Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for *Construction of Lineman's/Operator's Villa at Batangas Substation*. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

The ***NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION-SLOM*** now invites potential Bidders to submit Letter of Intent (LOI) and apply for eligibility for *the construction of lineman's/operator's villa at batangas substation*. Bidders should possess a valid ***PCAB license*** with ***License Particular of at least: "Category D & C, General Building"*** and ***Registration Particular of at least: "Small B-Building & Industrial Plant***, must have at least completed a single contract similar to the contract to be bid involving experience in construction of all types of building, i.e. housing, schools, hospitals, market, multi-storey buildings, airport terminals & other related structures. The value of which should be at least 50% of the ABC, and meet the other minimum eligibility requirements stated in the eligibility documents. Applications for eligibility will be evaluated on a "pass/fail" basis. The last day for submission of eligibility documents shall be on the same date of the opening of Eligibility documents: ***July 07, 2006, 1:30 P.M.*** at the address mentioned in the next succeeding paragraphs. Only those Bidders passing the eligibility check will be entitled to purchase the Bidding Document. Completion of the works is required by ***125 calendar days.***

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act No. 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and is restricted, unless otherwise stated, to organizations with at least seventy-five percent (75%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines. In accordance with IRR Part A of R.A 9184, only bids from Bidders who passed the eligibility check will be opened. The Bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine its responsiveness to the technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during post-qualification.

Interested Bidders shall secure the Eligibility documents from the BAC Secretariat at the address stated below, starting ***June 16-July 04, 2006 from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.*** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of ***Php1,000.00.*** They shall submit their accomplished Eligibility documents on or before ***July 07, 2006, 1:30 P.M.*** at the stated address. Eligibility Screening shall be held on ***July 07, 2006, 1:30 P. M.*** at the OAVP Conference Room B of the stated address

Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from ***NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION-SLOM*** *Regional Contracts Management Office (RCMO)* and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from ***8:00 A.M.*** to ***5:00 P.M.*** on ***July 28-31, 2006.***

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Bidders that passed the eligibility check upon the presentation of the Notice of Eligibility to the BAC Secretariat at the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee ***Php2,000.00***. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the bidder or his authorized representative starting ***July 28-31, 2006, 8:00 A.M.- 5:00 P.M.***

The ***NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION-SLOM*** will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all Eligible Bidders on ***Aug. 03, 2006, 9:30 A.M.*** at the OAVP Conference Room Transco, SLOM San Vicente, Biñan, Laguna.

Deadline for submission of bids is on ***August 17, 2006, 9:30 A. M.*** at the address below. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in any of the prescribed form indicated under Section 27.2 of R. A. 9184. Bid opening shall be on the same date ***August 17, 2006, 9:30 A.M*** at the ***OAVP Conference Room B of Transco SLOM.*** Late Bids shall not be accepted. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders representatives who choose to attend.

The ***NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION-SLOM*** reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

National Transmission Corporation – South Luzon Operations & Maintenance
Regional Contracts Management Office (RCMO)
San Vicente Biñan, Laguna 4024
Mr. Ruben G. Castuera – BAC Chairman
(02) 981-4576 to78 local 4094; 4086; 4053
rgcastuera@transco.ph
(02) 981-4576 to 78 local 4007
www.transco.ph.

(SGD.) RUBEN G. CASTUERA
BAC Chairman

(PDI – June 16 & 24, 2006)

NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION OF P-FOUR, INC.

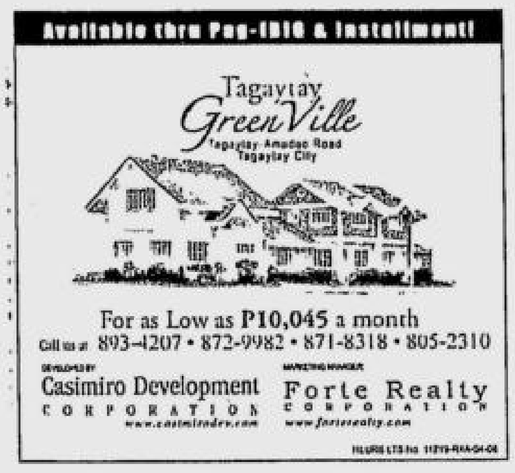
Notice is hereby given that **P-FOUR, INC.** will file with the Securities and Exchange Commission a Certificate of Amendment of Articles of Incorporation shortening its corporate life to April 30, 2005.

Any person who may have a claim against said corporation may present the same to the undersigned at c/o ALPAP 1 Bldg., 5th Floor, 140 L.P. Leviste Street Salcedo Village, 1227 Makati City.

This announcement serves as notice to all parties concerned of the dissolution of said Company.

(Sgd.) **ALELI MILITSALA-BONIOL**
Corporate Secretary
P-FOUR, INC.

(PDI – June 17 & 24, 2006)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SAINT MARY'S COLLEGE OF SAN JUAN
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School Year 2006-07
(Classes begin June 26, 2006)
Transfer Students
SHALL RECEIVE FULL CREDIT FOR COURSES SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED AT OTHER SCHOOLS SUBJECT TO OUR EVALUATION AND REVIEW
721-8938 to 39

Marcos Hiway Cainta Rizal (beside San Benildo School)
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With Warranty
Guarranteed Lowest Price
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Special Arrangement for :
OFW, SEAMAN, BALIK-BAYAN
RETIREES & CALL CENTER
EMPLOYEES
Financing Available
We Accept Credit Card Payment
For more info, Pls. call
(02) 249 1818 / 249 - 1831
0922 - 8160417
0916 - 2069813 / 0918 - 5886075

NOTICE OF LOSS

This is to inform the public that 1 pc. of C.T.C. with serial no. 24236753 (original, duplicate & triplicate) issued to Brgy. Ibayo, Marilao, Bulacan was lost. Any transaction with said C.T.C. if used shall be considered forfeited, not valid and will no longer be honored. If found, kindly inform the concerned barangay w/ tel. no. 044-711-4417.

(PDI - June 24, 2006)

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Up to 12 Years to pay
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0917-8473744

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PORO POINT MANAGEMENT CORPORATION
A Subsidiary of Bases Conversion Development Authority

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

Consultancy Services for the Detailed Engineering Design
of the San Fernando Airport

The proposed development covers an approximate land area of 40 hectares. The facilities to be designed by the consultant shall include the aircraft movement area (runway, taxiway and apron), Navigational aids, airfield lighting system, perimeter fence, control tower, crash and fire rescue facilities, passenger terminal building, administrative building, vehicular parking area, and drainage, water, power and communication systems. The preparation of engineering and architectural designs and the construction of these facilities shall be in accordance with the Standard and Recommended Practices of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and other applicable and present engineering standard, codes and practices available. The design covers structural, architectural, electrical, sanitary, mechanical, security and other related disciplines.

The Poro Point Management Corporation (PPMC), intends to apply the sum of **Nine Million Two Hundred Thirty Thousand Eight Hundred Eighty Seven and 50/100 Pesos (Php 9,230,887.50)** being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for **Consultancy Services for the Detailed Engineering Design of the San Fernando Airport**. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at opening of the financial proposals.

The PPMC, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), now invites Letters of Intent (LOI) from potential Bidders to apply for eligibility and short listing for Consultancy Services for the Detailed Engineering Design of the San Fernando Airport. Applications for eligibility will be evaluated on a Pass/Fail basis. The deadline for submission of eligibility documents shall be on or before July 14, 2006. Only those Consultants that are short-listed will be entitled to purchase the Bidding Documents. Completion of the project is required within 4 months from the receipt of Notice to Proceed.

The BAC shall draw up the short list of Consultants from those who have been determined as eligible, and who have submitted their expressions of interest, both in accordance with the provisions of the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) Part A of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184). The short list shall consist of five (5) Consultants. Below are the criteria and rating system for short listing of Consultants:

• Firm Experience and Track Record	50 points
• Technical Staff Experience	50 points

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the IRR Part A of R.A. 9184, otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and is restricted, unless otherwise stated, to organizations with at least a sixty percent (60%) interest belonging to Citizens of the Philippines. In accordance with IRR Part A of R.A. 9184, only Proposals from short listed Consultants will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in the Bidding Document, Instructions to Consultants. In accordance with the IRR Part A of R.A. No. 9184, a contract will only be awarded to the Highest Rated and Responsive Bidder who was determined as such after post-qualification.

The PROCURING ENTITY shall evaluate the proposals from the shortlisted firms using the Quality-Cost Based Evaluation (QCBE) procedure. The criteria and rating system for the evaluation of proposals are:

• Technical Proposal	60%
• Financial Proposal	40%

The schedule of BAC activities is as follows:

BAC ACTIVITIES	SCHEDULE
1 Receipt from prospecive bidders of Letter of Intent (LOI) including Application for Eligibility	July 7 & 10, 2006
2. Issuance of Eligibility Forms	July 7 & 10, 2006
3. Receipt of Eligibility Requirements	July 14, 2006
4. Notice of Result of Eligibility Check	July 21, 2006
5. Issuance of Bid Documents	July 24, 2006
6. Pre-Bid Conference	July 27, 2006
7. Receipt and Opening of Bids	August 8, 2006

The BAC shall issue to prospective bidders Eligibility Forms at PPMC Administration Building, PPSEFZ Poro, City of San Fernando, La Union, and upon the submission of LOI, and upon their payment of non-refundable amount of three thousand pesos (Php 3,000.00) to the PPMC Cashier. Prospective bidders shall submit the eligibility requirements to the BAC at the said address. They may also obtain the results of the Eligibility Check by the BAC at the same address

The BAC will issue bidding documents only to the bidders declared by the BAC to be eligible for the bidding upon payment of a non-refundable amount of five thousand pesos (Php 5,000.00) to the PPMC Cashier.

The Poro Point Management Corporation reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

(Sgd.) ATTY. ANTHONY C. MANGUIAT
Vice President, PPMC and Chairman, BAC

(PDI – June 24 & July 1, 2006)

TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid
Republic of the Philippines
EDET Project
Tender No. LCB - EDET - 01-06
Training Equipment, Tools and Accessories in Lots:

Lot 6b - Food Processing	Php 12,240,000.00 (A, B, C)
Lot 11 - Tourism	Php 10,060,000.00 (A, B, C)

The Government of the Philippines (GOP) has received a credit from KfW towards the cost of the Expansion of Dual Education and Training (EDET) being carried out by the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) it intends to apply this credit for payments under the contract for Eleven (11) lots for the Supply of Training Equipment, Tools, Publications, Computer, Audio-Visual Equipment, Furniture and Accessories.

TESDA now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for Training Equipment, Tools and Accessories, Delivery of the Goods to the TESDA Institutional sites shall be one hundred twenty (120) calendar days from the date of contract signing. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.

Bidding will be conducted through limited bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act No. 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and is restricted to organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, as specified in Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the lowest calculated bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine his responsiveness to the technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY DIVISION, 3rd Floor, TESDA Administration Building, TESDA Complex, East Service Road, South Luzon Expressway, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of One Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (P1,500.00). The method of payment will be in the form of cash. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

TESDA will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all Interested parties on July 04, 2006 at 2:00 p.m., Aquino Room, Learning Center, TESDA Administration Building.

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before August 08, 2006. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form of:

- Cash, certified check, cashier's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit equivalent to 1% of ABC; or
- Bank Guarantee equivalent to 1½% of ABC; or
- Surety Bond equivalent to 2½% of ABC

Late Bids shall not be accepted.

Bid opening shall be held on August 15, 2006, 9:30 a.m. at the Aquino Room, Learning Center, TESDA Administration Building. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.

TESDA reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders

TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
MR. SANTIAGO M. YABUT
(Deputy Director General, FO)
Chairman, BAC
TESDA Complex, TESDA Administration Building
East Service Road, South Luzon Expressway
Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City
Tel. No.: 817-40-76 to 80 and 893-8296
Fax No : 817-90-40
E-mail: psd ocsa@tesda.gov.ph
Website: www.tesda.gov.ph

(Sgd.) SECRETARY AUGUSTO BOBOY SYJUCO
Director General

(PDI June 17 & 24, 2006)

POEA 24-HR HOTLINES 722-1144 • 722-1155

With faith in the Resurrection
we announce the death of our mother

HERMELINDA VILLANUEVA RAMOS DIZON

Born in Bacolod City on 02 March 1913 and died in Bacolod City on 21 June 2006 of cardiac arrest.

She is survived by her three children, Rodolfo, Br. Rolando FSC and Josefa.

Her remains lie in state at the Chapel of Hope
Rolling Hills Memorial Park, Bacolod City.

The Mass of the Resurrection will be celebrated on Monday, 26 June 2006, 8:30AM at the Carmelite Monastery, Mandalagan, Bacolod City.

Interment follows.

In lieu of flowers, the family would appreciate donations for scholarships in her memory.
Please make checks payable to JRR DIZON FOUNDATION.

In Loving Memory
on her 1st Death Anniversary
June 24, 2005

NICANORA DOBLE-DE LUNA

Botolan, Zambales

Her children **Noel & Rose**, **Ruben & Bel**, **Paul & Kitty**, **Francis & Marlin**, and **Ma. Teresa**; grandchildren **Lee**, **Kim**, **Lin**; **Carlo**; **Abigail**, **Monica**; **Patrick Ian**; her friends and relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Mass will be offered today at San Isidro Labrador Church, Nangka, Marikina City at 7:00 a.m.

On the Eve of the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus,

A. JUDITH LUCIANO LEDESMA

was peacefully called from her valiant pilgrimage of 58 years.

Her mother, **Justice Leonor Ines-Luciano**;
Her children, **Elaine**, **Nikki**, **Carla**, **Tara**, and **Maryanne**;
Her grandchildren, **Noelle** and **Nikka**;
Her siblings, Ging and Eddie, Chichos and Nanett,
Sito and Marilyn, and Clem and EQ;
Her other relatives and friends, and the numerous people whose lives she had touched and served with Mother Teresa's Christ-like love, especially the mountain people of Siniloan and the prisoners of San Juan Town Jail,
request the pious readers
to pray for her speedy welcome into
God's Kingdom of Eternal Joy.

Her remains lie in state at the parish of the Shrine of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Broadway St., Q.C. Interment will be at the crypt of said Church on Sunday, June 25, 2006 after the 2:00 p.m. funeral Mass.

Seven Years Ago Today
Our Beloved Mama

MARIA KOO TAN

Joined the Lord in Eternal Rest

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will be celebrated in her memory and that of our *Papa*, **Salvador Tan Siong Chang**, today at the following churches:

Catarman Cathedral	5:30 AM
Mary The Queen (Greenhills)	6:00 PM
Sanctuario de San Jose (Greenhills)	6:15 PM
Chapel of the Eucharistic Lord (Megamall)	12:15 PM
Sanctuario del Santo Cristo (Blumentritt)	7:30 AM
St. Francis Church (Mandaluyong)	7:00 AM
St. John The Baptist	6:00 PM

Thank you once again for your prayers and well wishes.

Edward, Robert & Jenny, Ronnie (†) & Marge, Renan & Iris
Alex & Milly, Stanley & Jen, Sandy and Steve
Eddie & Noah, Doy, Square & Kay & Candice
Aida & Albert (Simtoco), Arvin & Malou, Archie & Barbie, & Aris
Tommy & Marge, Bernice, Adrian & Melissa
Eday & Boy (Gustilo) & Gail
Nonoy & Grace, Trisha, Felicity, Valerie, Noynoy & Borgy
and great grandchildren.

MANUEL VICENTE KOHANAP BRIONES

a loving and dedicated father passed away
on Saturday, June 10, 2006.

Manuel, known to most as Noli was born on March 24, 1944 in the Philippines. He earned his Engineering Degree from Mapua Institute of Technology and received his MBA from Asia Institute of Management (AIM). After much traveling, he eventually settled his family in the United States. Moving to New York, New Jersey and then to Arizona permanently.

At the time of his demise, he was a member of The Society for Mining, Metallurgy and Exploration, USA; member of The New Jersey Society of Professional Engineers; and a Registered Professional Mining Engineer, USA.

Manuel will be sadly missed but lovingly remembered. His generosity and kind heart were an inspiration to his family. He lived his life with integrity and bravery.

Mr. Briones is survived by his loving wife **Gloria**; two daughters, **Christine** and **Marion Lee**; a son, **Frank**; a son-in-law, **Eugene Lee**; his sisters, **Remelina**, **Angelita**, **Longina** and **Wilhelmina**; brothers, **Josevero** and **Nicolarico**; in-laws, nephews and nieces; grandnephews and grandnieces.

His remains will lie in state on Monday and Tuesday, the 26th and 27th of June, 2006, respectively, at the Saint Jerome Chapel/Sta. Susana Church, Alabang, Metro Manila. Funeral Services will be held on Wednesday, June 28, 2006 at 9:00 am and interment will follow at the Loyola Memorial Park, Sucat, Paranaque, Metro Manila.

Message of Thanks

The family of

DR. ALEX B. TIRONA

of Cavite City

is deeply touched and grateful
for the tremendous thoughtfulness, love
and sympathy given by his relatives,
colleagues, patients and friends.
May God bless them all!

"Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."
Matthew 11:28

Death Notice

Artemio "Boy" Salcedo Cruz, Jr.
died last June 17, 2006 at the age of 58.

His remains lie at Funeraria Paz Sucat in Manila Memorial Park.

Interment starts 9am on Sunday, June 25, 2006.

Always caring...
INQUIRER OBITUARIES

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

"My soul finds rest in God alone; my salvation comes from Him;
He alone is my rock and my salvation; He is my fortress, I will never be shaken."
Psalm 62:1

CHUA KOK HIONG
a.k.a. PHILIP UY

Peacefully joined our Lord Jesus Christ
on June 21, 2006 at the age of 52.

His wife **So Han**; children **Ryan** (eldest son), **Michelle**, **Christian** and **Lyane**; his parents, brothers, sister and friends give thanks to the Lord for the blessing of his life.

His remains lie in state at La Funeraria Paz, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on June 26, 2006, 9:00 a.m. at the Manila Memorial Park, Dasmariñas, Cavite.

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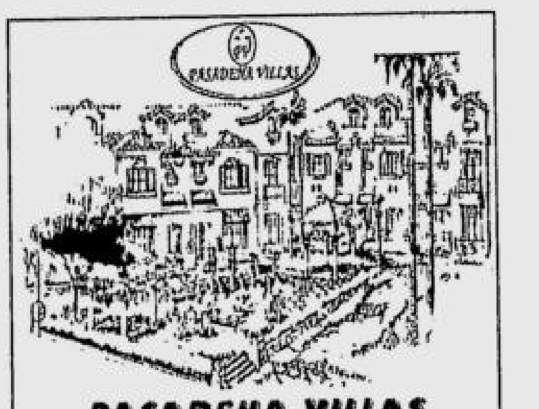

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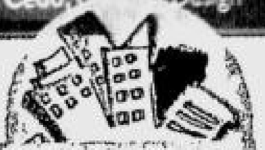

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A weekly directory of the country's best establishments

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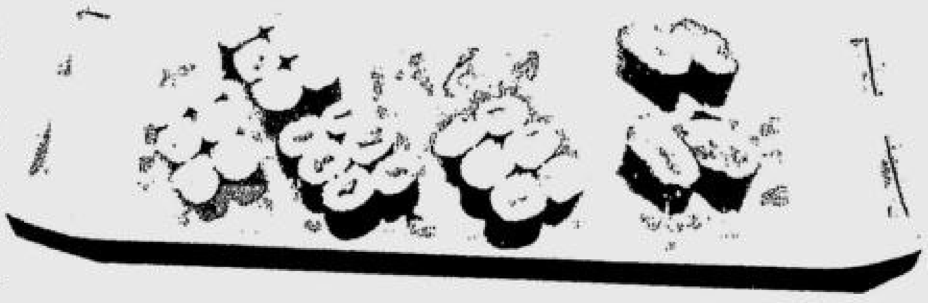
FOR THE WHOLE MONTH OF JUNE AND JULY, DINing at Dusit Hotel Nikko's Benkay to enjoy authentic Japanese cuisine at its finest gets even better every Saturday and Sunday.

Lunchtime is "Sushi O' More" time as Benkay takes your dining pleasure to the next level with its mouthwatering sushi selections.

Take pleasure in and choose from among the wide variety of sushi prepared by Benkay's well-loved sushi chefs. Choice of sushi starts at P100++.

For inquiries and reservations, please call 867-3333.



Astoria Plaza Hotel announcement

To all our valued clients:

We would like to assure all our clients that Astoria Plaza Hotel is in full operation and is in compliance with all regulations of the City of Pasig.

The recent report regarding the closure of Astoria Hotel located at the corner of Makati Avenue and Eduque St., refers to The Astor Hotel which is operated by the group of Manuel Morato.

Astoria Plaza is located at No. 15 Escriva Drive, Ortigas Business District, Pasig City. It is not, in any manner, connected with the said Astor Hotel.

For inquiries and reservations please contact us at 6871111 or visit our website at www.astoriaplaza.com

Bellevue Dance Party @ 20/20

THE ENTERTAINMENT AND LEISURE destination of choice in the southern Metro Manila area, The Bellevue Hotel, invites everyone to put on their dancing shoes for the exciting Bellevue Dance Party on Saturday, July 29 at the hotel's 20/20 Entertainment Bar. Held every other Saturdays at 7 p.m., the event relives the dance music fever of the seventies, sixties and other all-time favorite tunes in a dance arena overlooking the beautiful night lights of the south. Tapping the genius of Poncy Quirino, a well-known party organizer during the seventies and himself a dance master, this event will undoubtedly shake the southern Metro Manila party scene. Entrance fee of P500nett gets you in with two standard drinks, plus a special happy hour rate happens at the stroke of midnight. For inquiries, call 771-8181.

Saturday Night
Dance Party

Business made easy at Somerset Salcedo

WITH ITS STRATEGIC LOCATION at the heart of the central business district, its wide range of function rooms, business centre services, and impeccable services, Somerset Salcedo, Makati is an ideal location for expatriates and business travellers to hold meetings and entertain clients.

Whether it is for a business meeting, seminar or social gathering, Somerset Salcedo Makati offers a variety of function room packages and personalized services to cater to every resident's business needs.

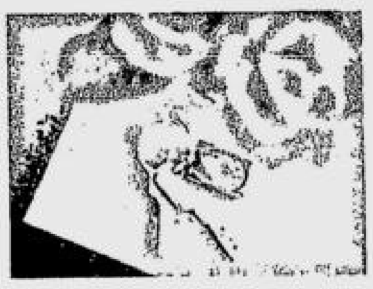
Located on the 6th floor, the Somerset Salcedo Makati Conference Room is an ideal meeting facility that can cater to groups of 25 to 70 persons. Somerset Salcedo's special function room packages include a wide selection of food and beverage choices, modern audio-visual equipment and broadband Internet access. Experienced staff will assist in coordinating the event and will be on site to help ensure that the event is run smoothly.

At the top floor of Somerset Salcedo is the spacious Penthouse which can cater to a variety of events. Stretching over 150 sqm., the Penthouse presents an idyllic space for large group seminars and special social get-togethers.

For the convenience of business executives who wish to unwind at the end of their meetings, Somerset Salcedo offers 155 fully furnished and stylishly designed serviced residence units where executives can recluse and relax. Residents can also enjoy a range of recreational facilities including fitness centre, indoor swimming pool, jacuzzi, restaurants, bar and residents lounge.

With a panoramic view of the city in the background, coupled with its wide options of special function room packages and facilities, occasions held at Somerset Salcedo Makati will be an event to remember.

For more information on Somerset Salcedo's Function Room Packages, please contact our Central Sales Office at (63-2) 888-0531 or e-mail at enquiry.manila@the-ascott.com.



People, Events & Products

HACCP CERTIFICATION
AWARDING CEREMONY OF

SWEET CRYSTALS INTEGRATED RECEIVES HACCP CERTIFICATION

Sweet Crystals Integrated Sugar Mills (Scism), one of the most productive sugar milling corporations in the country, and fully owned by All Asian Countertrade Inc (AACI), recently received the honor of being the first sugar mill in Luzon to pass the stringent HACCP audit, in an awarding ceremony held at the Makati Shangri-La Hotel. The event was well-attended by Scism and AACI officials, Philippine Sugar Millers Association, top clients from the food industry, major bankers of Scism, and Vice Mayor Carling dela Cruz of Porac, Pampanga. The HACCP or Hazard Analysis and Critical Points is a globally-accepted approach to food safety that addresses physical, chemical and biological hazards covering all stages of food production and preparation. The two-week audit of mill conducted by the Technischer Überwachungsverein (TUV), or Technical Inspection Association Philippines, tested all critical facets of mill operations that were evaluated based on the Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) on sanitation of mill and processes involved, pest control, housekeeping, and safety and quality of products. Present in the official awarding are (from left) Jo Kue, TUV marketing, Michael Escaler, Scism chair, Pinky Zamora, TUV marketing, Joel Cayasan, Scism business unit head, Jojo Gana, Scism president, Gene Ochavillo, Scism QC head, May Cuevas, Scism marketing and Bobby Ortiz, Scism CFO.

ACER APPOINTS BRIDGE DISTRIBUTION AS DISTRIBUTOR

In a move to further expand its distribution network in the Philippines and reach a bigger base of users, Acer Philippines Inc announced recently that it has appointed its 4th distributor in the country, Bridge Distribution Inc. A subsidiary of Phil-Data Business Systems Inc, Bridge Distribution Inc will manage channels for Acer desktop and server products. Acer Philippines Inc, for its part, is happy to take Bridge Distribution Inc into its fold as part of its network of distributors, further expressing optimism in Bridge's capability to further grow Acer's business. Photo shows, (seated, from left) Manuel Wong, general manager, Acer Philippines; Ruther Ng, vice president and general manager, Bridge Distribution Inc. Witnessing the MOA signing are (from left) Mannix Lim, sales manager, Bridge Distribution Inc; Agnes Espino, marketing manager, Acer Phils; and Oliver Pabilla, product manager, Bridge Distribution Inc.

Bits Clips

HealthToday fitness seminars

HEALTHTODAY MAGAzine presents a series of workshops, seminars and demos on June 24 at the Megatrade Hall 3 in SM Megamall. Diverse subjects on caring not only for the self, but also for the family will be discussed at the health exhibit, covering fitness tips and trends of interest to mothers and working women everywhere, tasty and nutritious cooking for the family, caring for the husband and child rearing. The lecture-seminars will run from 1 p.m. until 6:30 p.m., while a conditioning cum well-being exhibit will be open the whole day. There will also be free health services like medical consultation, bone scanning, body-mass index measurements, blood pressure monitoring and more. Raffle prizes and gifts await lucky visitors. Part of the proceeds from this health exhibit will go to Gawad Kalinga to help build communities for the underprivileged. Entrance is free. Those who will bring a copy of the June 2006 issue of HealthToday can avail of free health services. Contact MediMarketing Inc at 886-0333 or 886-0342, local 113 or 115 to guarantee seats for the seminars.

'Ampalaya...' book now available at Powerbooks

AMERICAN AUTHOR FRANK MURRAY RECENTLY paid the country a visit for the formal launching of his book "Ampalaya: Nature's Remedy For Type 1 and Type 2 Diabetes" at Powerbooks in Greenbelt 4. Murray traveled to the Philippines to research and get a first-hand look at the Ampalaya and how it is used to help diabetics in the country. His book takes an in-depth look at the healing properties of the Ampalaya demonstrating its efficacy using both scientific studies and case histories of individuals using Charantia, the country's leading Ampalaya food supplement product. Also detailed are how diabetics can care for their eyes, kidneys and feet, and the importance of nutrition, exercise and support groups. Herbcare Corporation made possible Murray's visit in the Philippines for the book launch. Prior to his visit, Murray also attended the Natural Products Expo held in Anaheim California and at the Philippine Consulate in New York where his work was met with commendation.

E-mail: pr_science_health@inquirer.com.ph
Editor Cesar D. Mangawang
Text us your feedback: inquirer hea name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

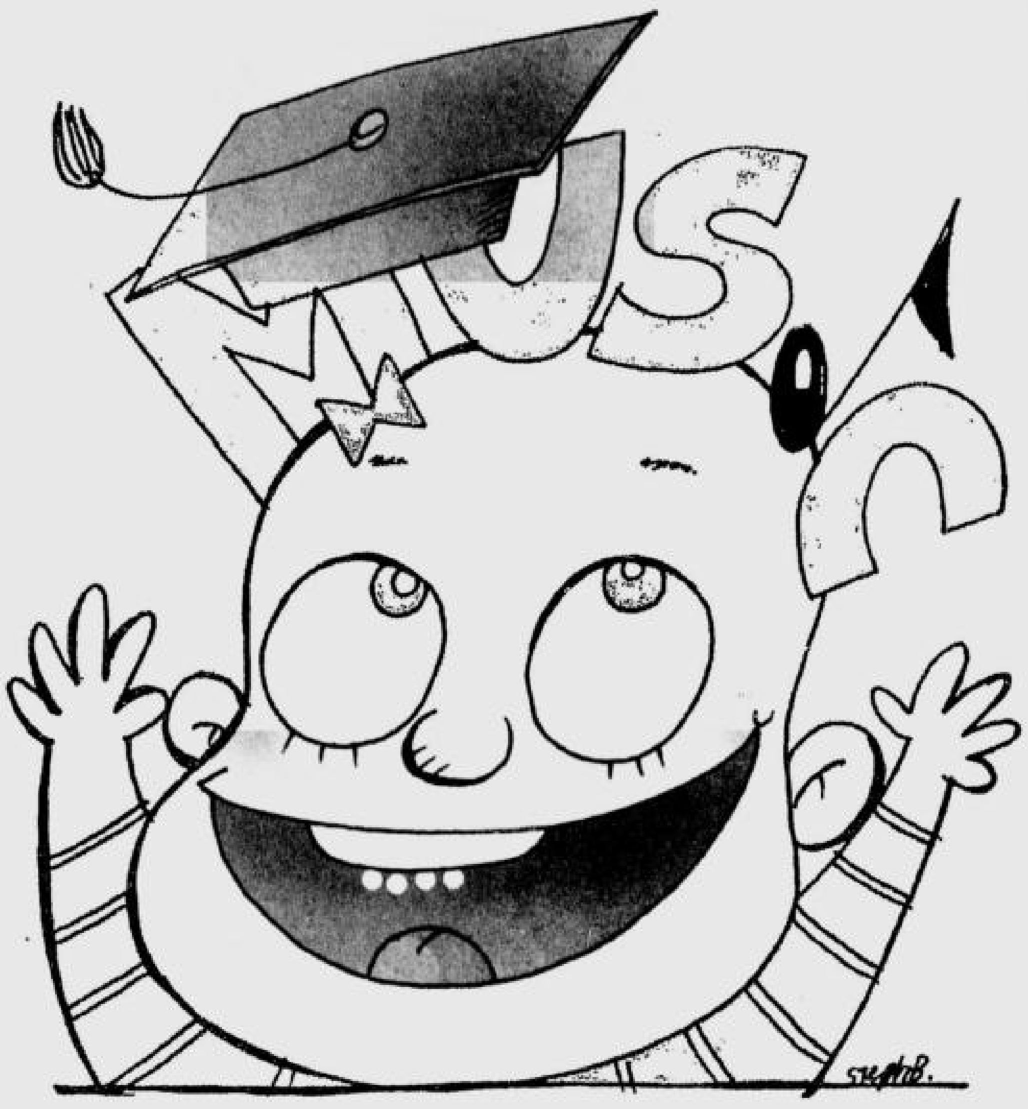
A child's brain development optimized through music

By Tessa R. Salazar

WHO COULD HAVE thought the musically inclined would also do well with a scalpel or a protractor? According to studies cited by US-licensed educator Jeannie H. Castillo, 66 percent of music majors who apply to medical school are admitted. The best engineers and technical designers in Silicon Valley are nearly without exception practicing musicians.

Furthermore, she adds, the world's top academic countries place a premium on music education. Children in countries like Hungary, Netherlands and Japan take their music lessons seriously.

From these, Castillo boldly concludes a direct co-relation between the inclination to music and the ability to excel in various other fields.



Stimulating brain dev't

Castillo, who teaches children up to 7 years old at her new Kindermusik studio in Cubao, Quezon City, revealed in a recent press conference how music and interaction stimulate the overall brain development of a child in a way that nothing else can.

Castillo says that when a child is exposed to early stimulation—whether they're talked to by parents, held, sung to, danced with or engaged in play—synapses, or the connections between neurons in a child's brain, are created and stimulated.

She adds that the more a child interacts with a parent or teacher, the more connections are created between neurons, paving the way for brain development.

And then there's music, which seems to play an important role in a child's emotional development.

"When a child is exposed to music, his or her emotions are engaged. There's an emotional component to music that makes people happy, especially when this music is experienced with a parent or caregiver that the child feels comfortable with. The child learns through the limbic system," she says.

Primed for learning

Castillo adds that when a child feels positive emotions with the person who is teaching them, when they are listening to music that makes them feel happy, their brain is primed for learning.

"Taking it a step further, when a child is held or danced with or encouraged to play with musical instruments, it also works the motor development area of their brain," she says.

Castillo explains this develops a child's physical skills, and enhances the child's ability to listen.

"Being able to develop an acute sense of hearing and knowing how to listen is related to language development," she says.

Brain activities

Castillo says music engages both sides of the brain. The area that connects the two sides of the brain, the corpus callosum can be 5 to 15 percent larger for children who are exposed to music than those who are not.

Dr. Elizabeth Ventura, professor and chair of the UP Department of Psychology, says magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) results from musicians engaged in their craft show activity in all areas of their brains.

"Music and interaction are like cross training for children's brains, so there are more neural connections developed. The more they engage in music, the stronger the neural connections will be," Castillo says.

Stronger and more neural connections, she says, serve like "information superhighways" when the children become adults. Brain signals and external stimuli travel faster.

In a way, music helps "pave" these superhighways, so other skills related to reading, math and critical thinking are better facilitated.

Study results serve as guide for schizo treatment

By Charles E. Buban

WHEN FACED WITH THE fact that the first chosen antipsychotic drug is not effective or has intolerable side effects, both doctors and patients alike struggle to decide which drug to try next.

But thanks to the results of the second phase of the Antipsychotic Trials of Intervention Effectiveness (Catie) study, the question of which drug to try next may now be just a bit easier to answer.

The second Catie study, whose results were published in April, found that many schizophrenia patients who don't respond well to their first chosen antipsychotic medication improved after switching to a second medication.

The Catie study is the largest, longest and most comprehensive independent trial ever done to examine existing therapies for schizophrenia involving more than 1,400 patients in a span of 18 months at 57 medical facilities) and funded by the US government rather than pharmaceutical companies.

Guide

"With the results of the first and second phase already known, doctors, patients and their families will now have a guide on which drug will fit the patient's situation best and what side effects to expect," says Dr. Jose Tablante, Eli Lilly Philippines medical director.

In the first phase, nearly three-fourths of the patients did not complete the supposed 18-month long trial for any one the following reasons: inadequate effectiveness in controlling their symptoms, intolerable side effects or their own decision not to continue.

The drugs that showed benefits throughout the two phases of the Catie trial include Eli Lilly's olanzapine (Zyprexa) wherein test patients were "less likely to be hospitalized for a psychotic relapse and tended to stay on the medication longer than patients taking other medications."

However, researchers noted that olanzapine patients also experienced weight gain as well as increase in total cholesterol and triglyceride levels than patients taking the other drugs.

Evaluating tradeoffs

Tablante says the result only show why it is very important for doctors and patients alike to carefully evaluate the tradeoffs between efficacy and side effects and the study results may serve as a guide.

"Prior to the Catie study, doctors and patients don't have an idea how patients should be subsequently treated when one drug did not perform as expected and how the drugs compare to each other has not been well established. Because of the phase 2 study, a patient who didn't do well on one drug for a particular reason, is now provided with information on what drug to choose next," he adds.

Schizophrenia is a chronic, recurrent mental illness, characterized by hallucinations, delusions, and disordered thinking. Previous studies have demonstrated that taking antipsychotic medication is far more effective than taking no medicine at all, and that taking it consistently is essential to the long-term treatment of this severe, disabling disorder.

Although the medications alone are not sufficient to cure the disease, Tablante explains they are necessary to manage it.

Cell phone use linked to brain tumors?

MEDICAL FILES

By Rafael R. Castillo, MD

WHEN WE THINK OF A TYPICAL 21st century scenario of an urban dweller's lifestyle, we usually include cell phones, PDAs, notebooks, computers, microwave ovens and TVs in the picture. They are very much a part of our world and to many, it's impossible to imagine a life without them. And what do all these devices have in common? With prolonged exposure, they can also be a harmful source of electromagnetic field (EMF) radiation.

EMF pollution causes a different type of environmental pollution which can be more risky to one's health than the usual air pollution we can easily detect and protect ourselves from. EMF radiation is a major stressor of the body and we get a fair amount of it every day, everywhere. Yet, we can't see it, we can't hear it, we can't smell it.

Conflicting results

Some researches seem to suggest that the increased incidence of brain tumors during the last decade or so is attributable to cell phone use. Preliminary data would show that the brain tumor is usually located on the side where the patient would use his/her cell phone.

But results from studies have been conflicting. Last year, the Dutch Health Council, reviewing all available data from all over the world, found no conclusive evidence that radiation from mobile phones and TV towers was harmful. A four-year British survey released early this year also showed no link between regular, long-term use of cell phones and brain tumor.

These earlier publications seemed reassuring to cell phone users until researchers at the Swedish National Institute for Working Life observed in their study that the use of mobile phones over a long period of time can raise the risk for brain tumors, contradicting the conclusions of earlier researches.

The Swedish researchers looked at the mobile phone use of 905 people between the age of 20 and 80 who had been diagnosed with a cancerous brain tumor, and they found a link with their cell phone use.

The study noted that 85 of these 905 cases were so-called high users of mobile phones, that is they began early to use mobile and/or wireless telephones and used them a lot. Similar to the observations of previous studies, the tumors were more prevalent on the side of the head where the phone was said to be used.

Increased risk

Dr. Kjell Mild, head investigator of the study, said the figures meant that heavy users of mobile phones, accumulating 2,000 hours or more of cell phone use in their life, had a 240 percent increased risk for a malignant tumor on the side of the head the phone is used. In practical terms, if one uses cell phones an average of one hour a day (total daily use), he would have a 240 percent risk of developing a brain tumor in 5.4 years compared to nonusers of cell phones.

Dr. Mild suggested that to get the risk down, one should use hands-free phones but other experts don't seem to agree. They hypothesize that hands-free devices even serve as an antenna that attract more EMF radiation.

Another important observation in some of these studies is that children and younger people are more vulnerable to EMF waves due to their relatively thinner skulls, which are still maturing and growing. With the unlimited text and call promos available in our country, many youngsters spend minutes and sometimes hours making "telebabad" on their cell phones. This can pose a potential problem later on.

Inadequate disclosure

Since hands-free devices don't seem to offer any protection, the only safeguard I can think of at this point to minimize EMF radiation from cell phones is to use it only when it's necessary. If a landline is available, then we should use it instead of the cell phone.

And just like the cigarette manufacturers, the network providers (Globe, Smart, and Sun) should also have a line at the bottom of their advertisements stating something like: "Preliminary evidence suggests that accumulated exposure to cell phone radiation might increase the risk of brain tumors." This should free them from any liability of inadequate disclosure which cell phone users who eventually develop brain tumors might file against them.

Now read, not just watch, Discovery Channel

EUREKA!

Queena N. Lee-Chua

STRAIGHT FROM THE DISCOVERY Channel: The one-celled ameba leads far from a shapeless and boring existence. It has a nice life actually, eating until it doubles in size and splits. It walks in a funny but sly way, rearranging itself and protruding on one side on fake feet, which make it move forward, grasp the surface, pull the rest of the body, and after that literally tiring step, reabsorb the fake foot till the next move. And that's just the ameba—think of the possibilities for paramecium, cilia, bacteria, etc. This almost makes one want to be a biologist.

Speaking of cells, all cells, including ours, are really 90 percent water, with the rest divided among protein, carbohydrate, fat, nucleic acid. We start out when a bold male sperm cell makes contact with the mother's egg cell, dividing merrily away until different kinds of cells are formed. (The heart beats for the first time 21 days after fertilization.)

Small chambers

But where did the word "cell" come from? When scientist Robert Hooke, who trained as a painter, observed magnified pieces of cork (yes, cork!) under the microscope, he saw rows of little boxes reminiscent of bees' honeycomb. With artistic ingenuity, he drew and dubbed them cells, meaning small chambers (think of a cell in a jail). By the way, if you want to look at cells for yourself, you don't need cork. Slice an onion, peel off an inner layer and study under a lens. And quick: What's another name for a bacteria party? A cell-abration, of course.

No, I did not get all this information from Discovery Channel TV or the VCD, though. I read about all these from "Micro: The Cell Files," part of the series Discovery Channel School, 32 pages filled with photos, diagrams, factoids and a puzzle or two—all written in an engaging lively manner guaranteed not to turn away the science phobic. The series is intended for US grades 5 to 9; I recommend them for Filipino students in Grade 4 up, though smart younger kids will also benefit), and of course, teachers and parents can use them to up on the basics and catch up with what's new.

Traveled back in time

"In Twisted: The Genetics Files," I traveled back in time to meet Gregor Mendel and his peas; James Watson and Francis Crick and the DNA double helix; and what's more, even rode a wild ride on the molecule itself, replete with blow-by-blow descriptions of its constituents. Did you know that we carry 100 billion miles of DNA in our body?

I eavesdropped on an interview with Dolly, the first cloned sheep, and with a pang realized that she would not survive long after this. (I hope Discovery Channel updates this book to include Dolly's recent death.) Along with twins (identical twins do not have the same fingerprints) and clones (a la "Jurassic Park"), then I met John Merrick, the so-called Elephant Man (immortalized in the movie of the same name), with a growth on his face resembling a tusk; and the vampire, who might have suffered from a rare disease called congenital erthropoietic porphyria, which made the victim extremely sensitive to light (hence, Dracula's preference for the night). What's more, according to Canadian biochemist David Dolphin, garlic would make the disease worse.

Two other books in the series, "React: The Nuclear Energy Files" and "Conserve: The Natural Resources Files" segue from Einstein, fusion, the atomic bomb, nuclear reactors to half life, X-rays, uranium, nuclear power; and from redwood forests, natural parks, John Muir to recycling, toxic smog, pollution, reforestation, respectively.

Very reasonable price

Last year, after obtaining the copyright, Anvil Publishing came out with these four books, which are available in major bookstores. Best of all, each volume is priced at a very reasonable P95, to make science accessible for all. For more information, call Anvil at 637-3621 or 747-1622 (ask for Gwenn or Lory) or e-mail at anvilpublishing@yahoo.com.

And by the way, by the time it takes you to finish this column, more than 300 million cells will have died inside you. But don't panic—around the same number are being created. We are all dying and being born at every moment.

* * *

E-mail the author at blessbook@yahoo.com.

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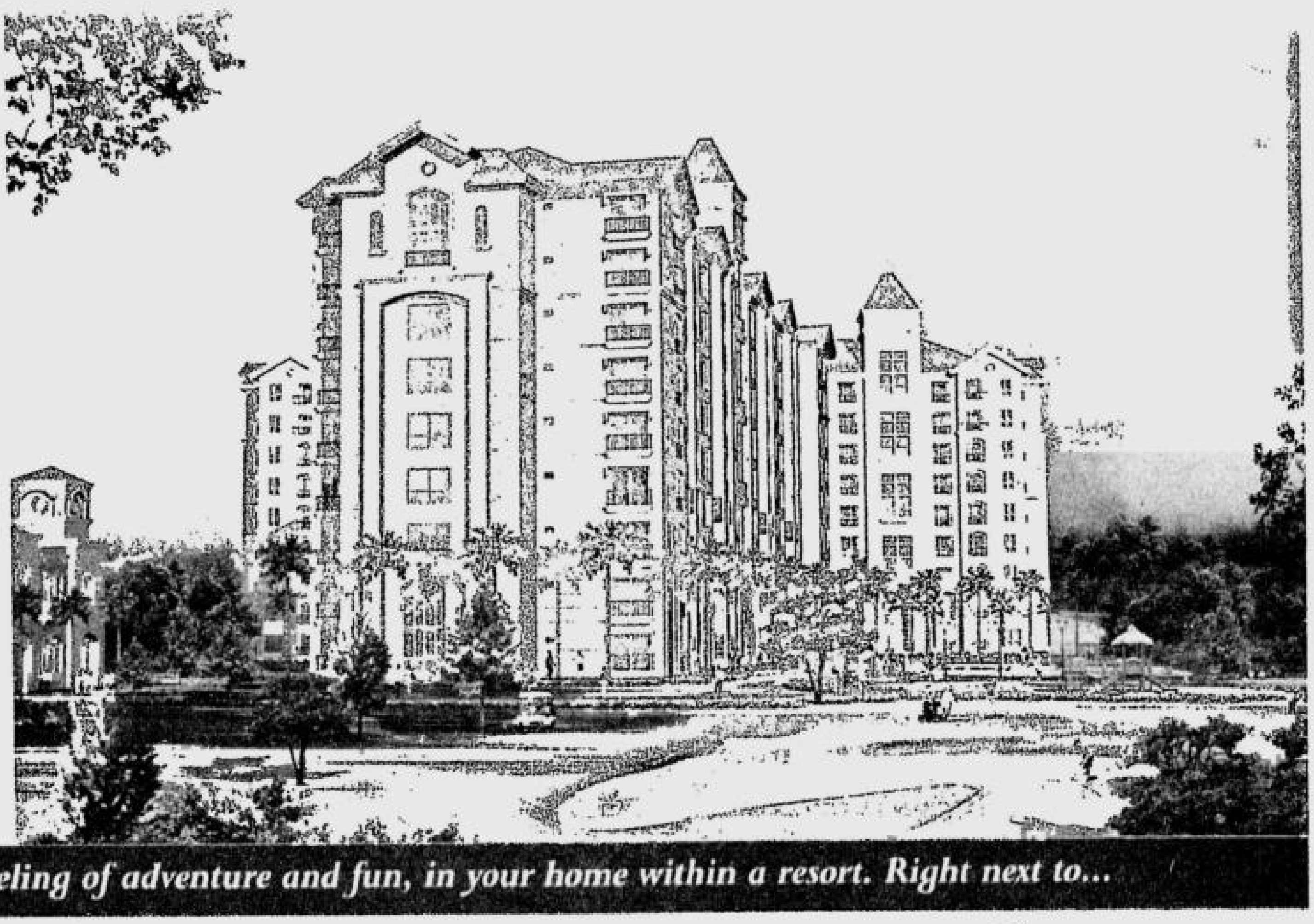

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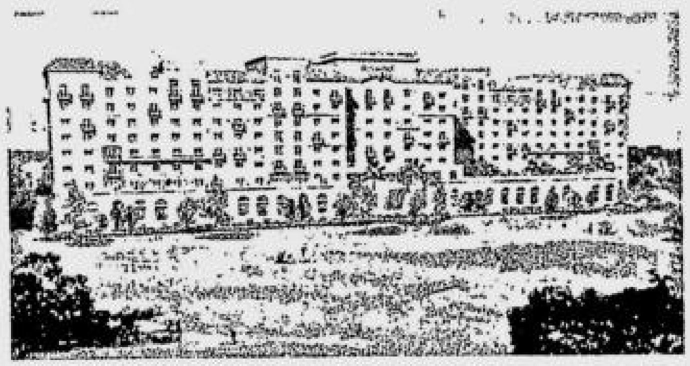

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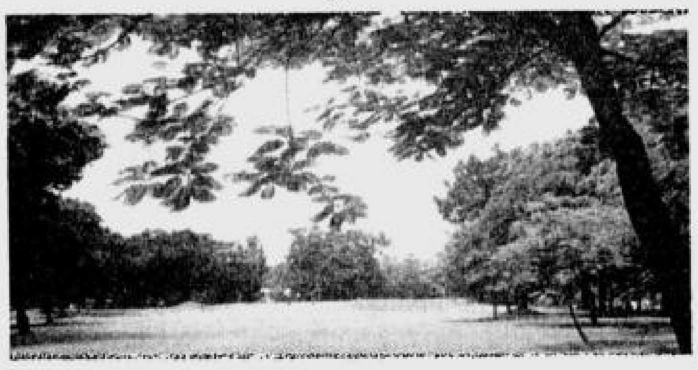
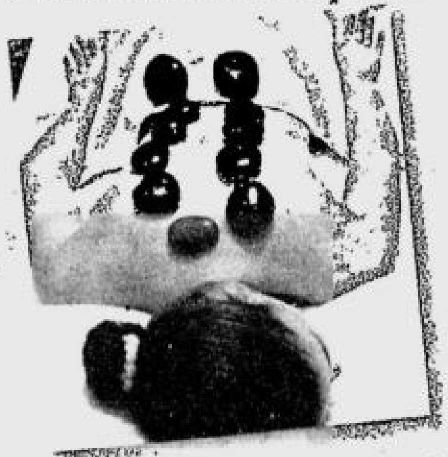
the Villamor Golf Course...



A championship-level playground for golf aficionados. Tee off in the 60-hectare, 18-hole, par-72 green. Non-golfers can enjoy front-row views of the sprawling landscape.

a luxurious indoor Spa...



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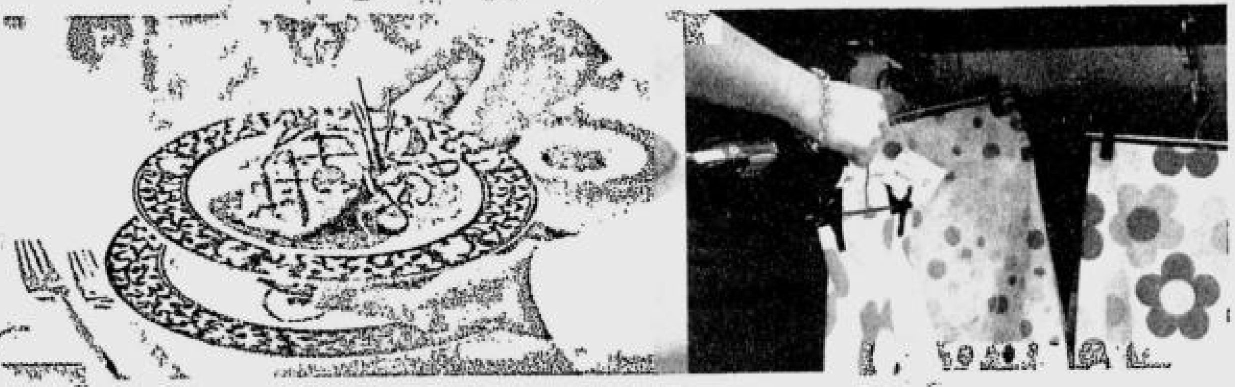

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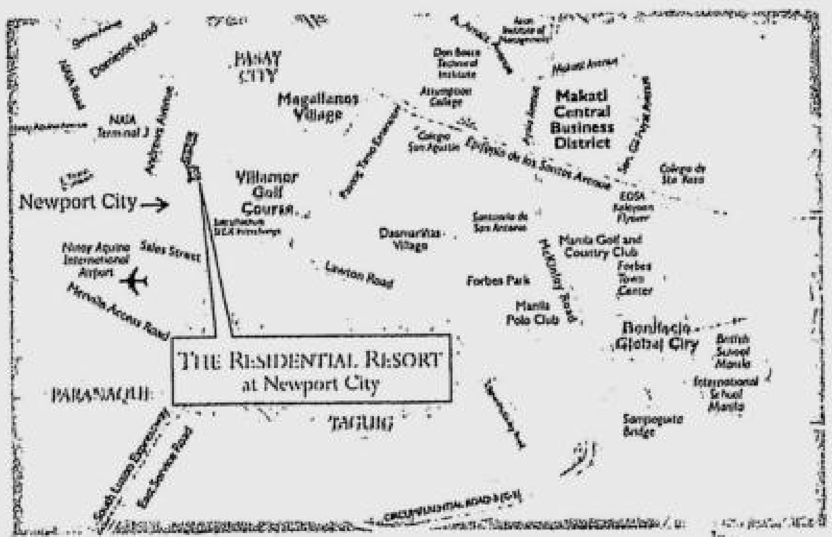

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PROPERTY

Editor Cesar D. Mangawang

Middle class housing amid business area

By Tessa R. Salazar

THE BACKBONE OF THE nation—the middle class—should be able to afford a housing program near their workplace.

For architect Gilbert C. Yu, that housing program isn't just near the workplace. It's at the center of it. Yu and his firm G&W Architects and Associates offer a build-to-own scheme, provide direct cost, and eliminate the middleman to bring down the cost of housing.

G&W Architects and Associates, which caters to a broad spectrum of the middle class and the "entry-level" A class, features clients that fit the economic profile of bank branch managers.

His project, The Grand Hamptons at Crescent West Fort Bonifacio Global City, has a starting price of P2.3 million on a P17,217.51 monthly payment scheme for a 46-square-meter bedroom unit, and a high-end two-bedroom unit of 77.91 sq m that goes for P3.9 million, or P29,187.95 per month.

His lot portions, he says, were bought at a "high price."

According to him, city-centered homes for the middle class go for P2 million.

Affordable

"The homeowner might probably afford a down payment of 10 percent, or P200,000, then have the P1.8 million amortized, which is around P19,000 a month. *Kayang kaya 'yan* (That's affordable)," he says.

Yu also suggests that with a subsidized government land and a build-to-own method, one can afford a home at the center of where he or she works, which will give buyers a "quality time for their children."

"Right now they travel two to four hours back and forth, they will have a very unusual family way of life because they are not with their kids in their homes," he says.

According to Yu, the build-to-own scheme provides a home buyer an alternative to the "monopolized old system." It allows technical people like architects, engineers, contractors and suppliers to serve buyers directly, instead of dealing with middlemen.

He adds that this new system will respect other legitimate professionals like realtors and property brokers.

In-city development

Phinma Property Holdings Corp., known during its early years as a developer of high-end projects such as Manila Polo Club Townhouses, Mariposa Villas and Mariposa Square, has concretized what it says is its social responsibility: the affordable medium-rise housing project in urban areas for young families, self-employed individuals and overseas Filipino workers (OFWs).

Phinma Property Holdings' medium-rise Spazio Bernardo at a 1.6-hectare property on Mindanao Avenue, Quezon City—a 10-minute ride from SM City North Edsa—offers 30-sq-m units at a cost of P575,000 on its higher floors, true to its slogan "City Living Made Easy."

Its other development Sunny Villas, near Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City, costs even lower at P440,000 for a 30-sq-m unit.

Phinma Property president and CEO Willie J. Uy says that when his group started with low-cost horizontal housing projects during President Cory Aquino's time, they were in San Pedro and Cavite.

Uy says that though home buyers were happy to have their own houses, it took them up to three hours to commute from their home to their place of work. Quality time with the family was gone.

Building system

"So we sent our engineers to other Southeast Asian countries to see what kind of housing is suitable for people living in the urban areas. We saw that the only way to go was vertical. We had to look for a building system because the cost of land in Metro Manila is high," Uy says.

Phinma decided on a cast-in-place European-based technology which he describes as good as high-end developments in Metro Manila.

This building system enables the developer to finish units quickly. Spazio Bernardo, with 957 units (at over 11 buildings), was completed in just 9 months.

Cast in place is a high-tech "*buhos* on site," which affords a fast 18 hours per floor work rate, said Grant Orbeta, PPHC assistant vice president for marketing and design.

Orbeta adds that the units are module-type. An owner has an option to have a bigger unit by purchasing two 30-sq-m units and joining them.

Earthquake resistant

Uy says this system enables PPHC to deliver low-cost condo housing projects around the country at a much faster rate without resorting to cheap construction materials and questionable quality of finished products.

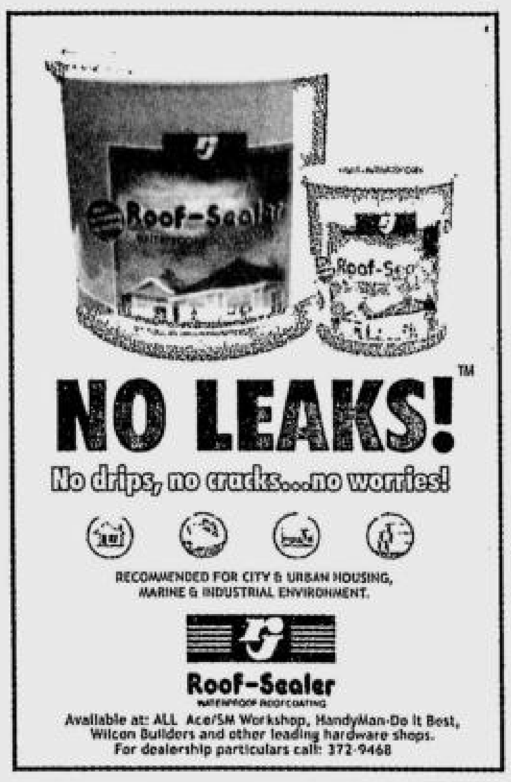
PPHC claims its projects are found to be compliant with Zone 4 earthquake standards being the highest level of earthquake resistance.

The PPHC's five-story condo building projects such as Smile Citihomes, Smile Annex, Sunny Villas and Spazio Bernardo all use this system of construction.

"By law, if you go into low-cost housing, the minimum is 18 sq m (according to Batasang Pambansa 220) but we decided 18 sq m would be too small. We made it 30 sq m with one bedroom," says Uy.

Phinma's medium-rise projects are typified by aluminum windows, self-leveling concrete for floors for flat finish with vinyl, units prepainted, and kitchen cabinets together with toilets. The ground floors are more expensive than the upper floors.

Phinma's next projects would involve building 36-sq-m units.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Post occupancy evaluation and green buildings

GREEN ARCHITRENDS

Amado de Jesus

IF YOUR BUILDING HAD A REPORT card to check what works and what doesn't, how would it fare? Will it get a passing or a failing grade? For that matter how do you rate or evaluate a building?

In most cases, buildings are meticulously studied and analyzed during the design phase. Countless man-hours are spent studying the external design and the building systems that will keep the building running. Once the building is completed, minimal evaluation is done, and if done at all, the study is focused on the building itself excluding the needs of the occupants.

What happens when buildings are not evaluated after their completion? The following are classic examples.

We have many buildings where the occupants learn to cope with unwanted sunlight in their work areas. They cover their windows with all sorts of devices to shield themselves from the harsh tropical sun. They hang banners, posters, cardboards, old blinds, etc. Most designers are not aware of these effects based on their designs. Through post occupancy evaluation, these flaws are brought out.

Another similar example would be the use of excessive daylight in the building. If not properly handled with shading and light control, this can cause excessive glare for workers, especially those working with computers. This could result in low productivity.

Excessively low temperature that makes occupants literally freeze can also be as harmful to workers' health and productivity, just as very high, humid temperatures can also affect occupants' performance.

What is post occupancy evaluation?

Post occupancy evaluation (POE), first used over 25 years ago, is a comprehensive and systematic evaluation of a building's design—especially green buildings—after it has been built and occupied for some time. It is the most effective way for architects and the entire design team to see if the building functions well.

Main goal

Post occupancy evaluation is a powerful diagnostic tool used to assess the building's strengths and weaknesses from the standpoint of the occupants. Its main goal is to document and measure indoor air quality, evaluate how buildings are assembled and maintained, how occupants' satisfaction, comfort and productivity are enhanced, and how the value of a property can be increased.

The evaluation is done by rating the building's actual performance against the design's required performance. For example, if the building's lobby was designed to maximize the use of daylight to reduce energy consumption, is this the actual condition in the lobby?

A post occupancy evaluation considers the needs, perceptions and requirements of the owners, operators and occupants. Based on this, a building's performance shows how well it functions to fill the needs of the client's organization, as well as the needs of the occupants in that organization.

Typical questions that might be included in the evaluation are:

- Does the building and its facilities support or prevent the organization from carrying out its mission?
- Are the materials environment-friendly or do some materials cause illnesses due to emission of toxic elements?
- Is the building faithful to the original criteria drawn up during the early design phase?

Post occupancy evaluation reports normally have the following elements ranked in order of priority:

- Top priority—health, safety, security
- Second priority—function, efficiency, work flow
- Third priority—psychological, social cultural

Qualitative analysis

While case studies on building systems done in the 1970s and 1980s focused on the technical performance of buildings, the latest step in post occupancy evaluation emphasizes a holistic, process-oriented approach to evaluation that includes not only the facilities but also the political, economic and social aspects that affect the building and its occupants.

Purposes of POE

The POE can be used to check if a building design is functional or appropriate and if it conforms with the building's performance requirements. Examples can include the required cooling temperature in the board room or the right speed of the elevators during peak hours.

Another purpose is to adjust programs for identical and repetitive facilities. Through the POE, improvements in programming and the design criteria can be done to justify any repetitive design solutions.

The POE can also be used to make extensive research on the effects of buildings on their occupants. It can also be used to test the application of new concepts to justify the actions and costs involved.

3 phases of POE

- Planning
- Conducting
- Applying

The first phase is planning. It involves establishing the schedules, costs and manpower needs and data collection procedures.

The second phase is conducting, which involves field data collection.

The third phase is applying which means reporting findings, making recommendations and reviewing outcomes.

Benefits and uses of POE

Once an evaluation is completed, recommendations can be analyzed by the client and adjustments can be done to correct the problems. Through this process, lessons can be learned and improvements applied to future projects.

The benefits and uses of the POE can be grouped into short-, medium- and long-term.

The intermediate 35-year time frame is necessary for new construction projects. The long-term frame ranging from 10 to 25 years is suited for strategic planning, budgeting and comprehensive master plan studies.

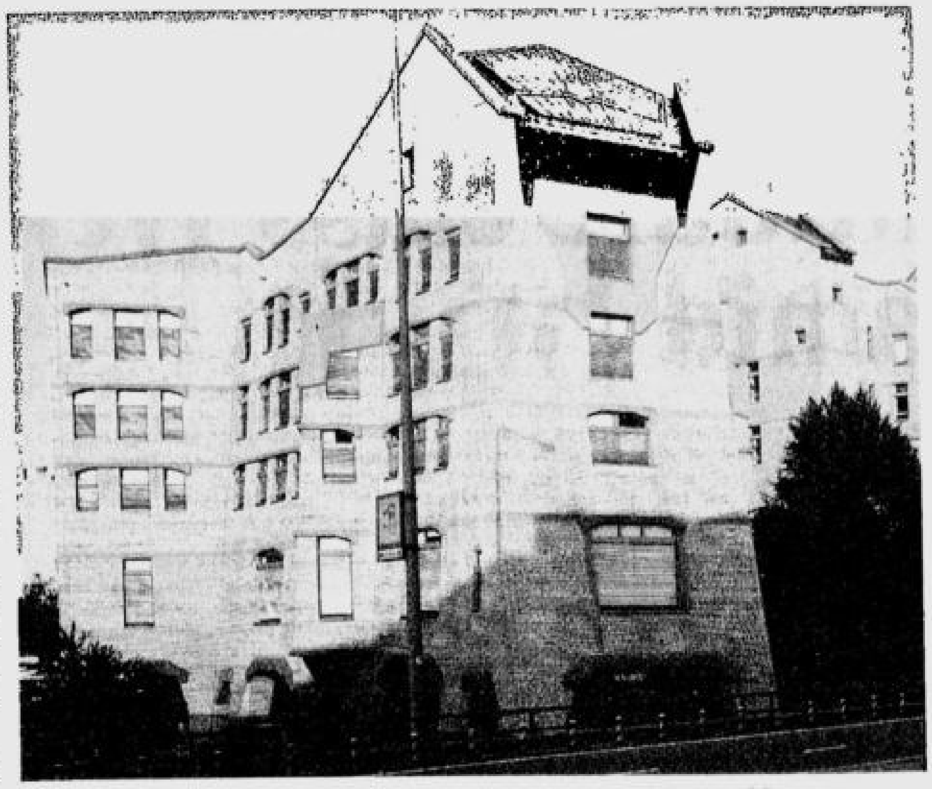
Most important benefit

The most important benefit of a post occupancy evaluation is its positive influence on the design of appropriate environments for human beings through improvements in programming and planning.

Post occupancy evaluation is a type of product research that helps architects and designers develop a better design to support the changing requirements of people and organizations.

Post occupancy evaluation can help strike a balance between facilities and organizations, including the people and the activities they support.

(For comments or inquiries, e-mail amadodejesus@gmail.com.)



THE ING BANK Headquarters in Amsterdam, Netherlands is a world-renown green building. Completed in 1987, it enjoys high occupants' satisfaction rating resulting in very significant high employee productivity. It features extensive use of daylight, high-energy efficiency and architectural innovations such as curvilinear form, local materials, plants, artwork and flowing water incorporated into the building in a highly integrated fashion.

Bonifacio Global City soon to sport a new logo

AN ABSTRACT FIGURE IN LIME green and deep aquamarine with a bold touch of orange is now the new logo of Bonifacio Global City. Representing a new master plan for the heart of the emerging business district, the new logo is the face of Bonifacio Global City's ambitious relaunch.

Following the acquisition of a controlling stake in Fort Bonifacio Development Corp., partners Ayala Land Inc. and Evergreen Holdings Inc. are giving a grand makeover to the rising district strategically located in Taguig.

From a circular road network that would give rise to a host of problems including traffic choke points and odd-shaped lots, the new City Center master plan will transform BGC into a premier business district that really works.

4 new elements

The plan introduces four new elements: 1) a road network with a grid layout that would allow for more efficient traffic management; 2) dedicated bus lanes for a managed public transit loop; 3) pedestrian walkways which comfortably and conveniently link buildings to parking and transit systems; and, 4) well-distributed and broadly accessible park areas to serve as focal points.

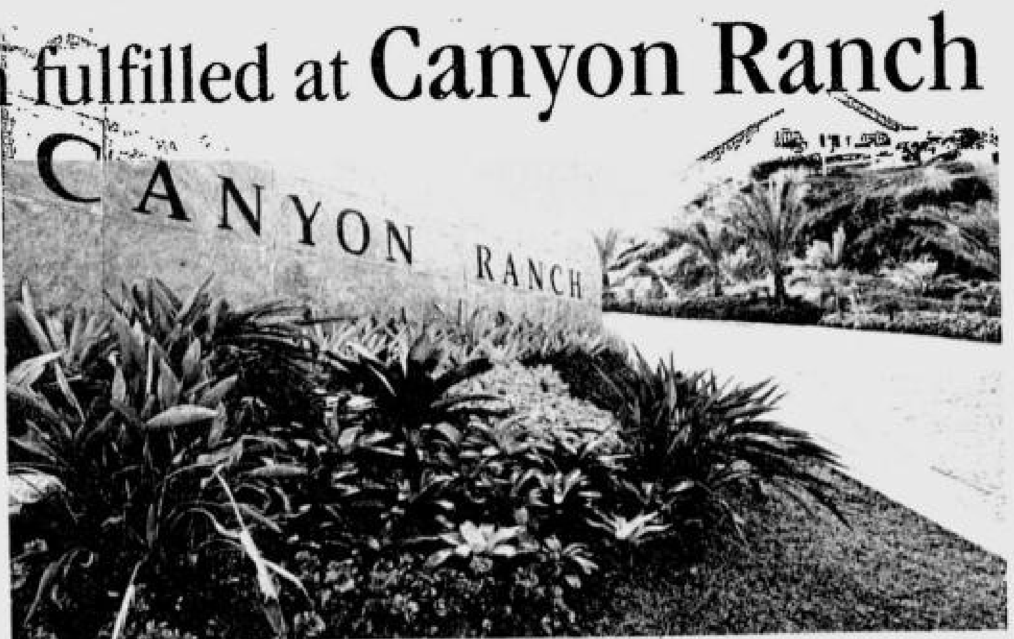
One of the earliest tangible benefits of the new City Center master plan is an innovative retail development which will be launched later this year. The development's centerpiece is a 40-meter-wide landscaped area that will be 400 meters in length and will be lined by stores and restaurants with the latest and most novel concepts. From fashion and beauty, health and wellness, home accessories and furnishings, sports lifestyle, anything is just a literal walk down the road.

Urban haven

The vision of the new business district is captured in the new Bonifacio Global City logo with the main visual element, a lime green circle representing the City Center's transformation into an urban haven. Its progressive nature is captured by the overlapping lines that allude to modern contemporary art and at the same time express the movement and fluidity of a mixed-use site where the boundaries between work, leisure, and personal spaces will no longer be strictly defined.

The circle also represents completeness and convergence, qualities that will further define the self-sustaining business district. The square within the circle communicates a sense of structure and stability within this ever-changing urban landscape. The logo makes use of deep aquamarine to express the energy and vibrance with a contrast offered by bright colors for passion and creativity. This horizontal band evokes the new east-west axis centered on the retail promenade. In its entirety, the logo represents a city steeped in possibilities and teeming with diversity.

The Pinoy dream fulfilled at Canyon Ranch



CANYON Ranch is a most prestigious gated community just 10 minutes away from the Alabang exit.

OWNING A HOME IN AN EXCLUSIVE gated community has become a fundamental Pinoy aspiration. It is the Filipinized version of the American dream of a comfortable life in a white picket-fenced home.

With the country's encouraging economic upsurge, we find ourselves on the verge of the biggest real estate boom in history, and it looks like more and more Pinoys will soon be able to live the new "Filipino" dream.

The postwar period has seen the Alabang area progress into one of the most coveted addresses for Filipino families mainly because of its exclusive environment, sense of security, and accessibility. Today, a home in Alabang is synonymous with prestige, wealth and good taste.

Of course, while most people, expats included, are eager to live in the area, the discerning future homeowner, keen on giving more value to his hard work, has discovered the best kept secret only 10 minutes away: Canyon Ranch.

At half the price

Just one toll booth away from the Alabang exit (a mere 10-minute drive) is a most prestigious gated community that rises far above sea level with a unique rolling terrain that has been compared to the magnificent hills of California. This ranch-style development showcases magnificent homes with impressive split-level configurations, expansive balconies that offer an unparalleled view of the breathtaking natural surroundings, and a perpetually cool and breezy climate completely unique to its location. All of these at a price that won't even get you a lot in Alabang.

Concert King Martin Nievera, himself a resident of Alabang, has spoken highly of the incredible value he saw in Canyon Ranch. Starting as low as P2 million, buyers get a magnificent two-story Californian-style home with sun-drenched, free-flowing interiors and view decks that give commanding vistas of vast bodies of water and lush mountains, including the hills of Antipolo, Laguna de Bay, Mt. Banahaw and Mt. Makiling.

Ideal place

Canyon Ranch is an ideal place to raise a family or to enjoy that long-awaited retirement. Homes are fully Wi-Fi integrated and master-planned with a world-class commercial complex that blends sports and a multitude of entertainment facilities.

The Manila Jockey Club, a world-standard twin-oval horse racetrack with vast stabling facilities, jockey's quarters and a state-of-the-art turf club building, is also just a stone's throw away from the residences. Nearing completion are restaurants and bars, gaming and entertainment areas, an equestrian school and a riding academy.

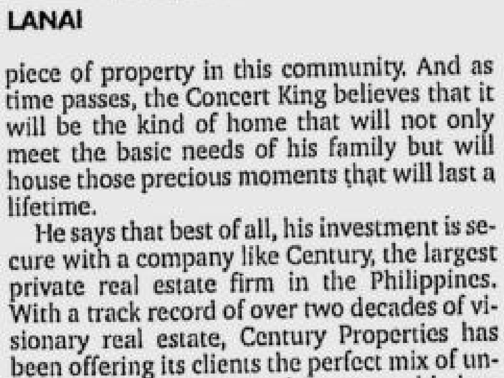
Canyon Ranch is the first horizontal development of Century Properties, developer of such award-winning projects like Essensa East Forbes, Soho Central, and South of Market.

Says Jose E.B. Antonio, chair of Century Properties Group: "At the core of the Canyon Ranch master plan is an insistence on balance, a lively interplay between work and leisure, between retail spaces and lifestyle, and between private interest and the public good."

Secured investment

As with many overseas Pinoy workers currently investing in Philippine real estate, Martin Nievera (now based in Las Vegas) immediately seized the opportunity of purchasing a piece of property in this community. And as time passes, the Concert King believes that it will be the kind of home that will not only meet the basic needs of his family but will house those precious moments that will last a lifetime.

He says that best of all, his investment is secure with a company like Century, the largest private real estate firm in the Philippines. With a track record of over two decades of visionary real estate, Century Properties has been offering its clients the perfect mix of unbeatable affordability and incomparable luxury in its continuous mission to make the Pinoy's dream come to life.



LANAI

CrownAsia to launch P7.5-B projects in third quarter

CROWNASIA, THE COUNTRY'S biggest builder of master-planned urban housing, is investing P7.5 billion on new real estate developments in Mega Manila. Following up on the property firm's decade-long leadership in building homes and communities for middle-income families all over the country, CrownAsia will subsequently launch five major projects in the third quarter of 2006.

"As a pioneer master-planned community (MPC) developer in the Philippines, CrownAsia is committed to developing an upgraded line of residential communities," said CrownAsia president Jerry Navarrete. "Each community combines strategic location and well-planned land use, offering homeowners a range of opportunities within a single, self-contained and environmentally responsible community."

Corporate vision

Citing the property firm's corporate vision, Navarrete said CrownAsia offers homes and master-planned communities featuring designs of enduring excellence and value which in turn innovate the residential opportunities in Mega Manila.

Crown City, a 300-hectare mixed-use development (comprised of residential and commercial areas) valued at P3.5 billion will be launched in July. The 10-year master-planned enclave is envisioned to become the town center of Bacoor, Cavite which will feature an IT park, financial district and commercial center with a symphony of residential opportunities such as single-detached homes, walk-up and high-rise condos and townhomes.

The P1-billion Assumption Heights in Antipolo City to be launched on the same month is another mixed-use project inspired by American countryside architecture. To be unveiled in August is the P500-million Altadena in Pasig City, offering a limited number of townhomes to ensure exclusivity for its prime location accessible via Ortigas Avenue.

"CrownAsia has become a major player in condo marketing in as short as two years with Presidio by the Bay launched in May 2005 and Presidio New Manila launched in March 2006," Navarrete said.

Vertical communities

"Two new vertical communities will be unveiled following the success of the first and second condo development," Navarrete said.

The Crown SkyArts University Belt, a P1-billion high-rise development to be launched in July will be located in Sampaloc, Manila, right across University of Santo Tomas. The 27-story vertical home is ideal for students, doctors and faculty members of neighboring educational facilities.

By August, CrownAsia will launch the Crown Tower Greenbelt, a P1.5-billion condo project located in the heart of Legaspi Village, Makati. The 30-story rise is just a walk away from the educational facilities of the Asian Institute of Management and the commercial and shopping areas of Greenbelt.

The company has commissioned top property consultants Recio+Casas Architects; Coscuella & Associates Architectural Firm; Palafox & Associates Architectural Urban Planning and Design Consultancy; and Santos, Caguinguin & Associates (SC&A) to lead the structural design and planning of the new projects.

CrownAsia is presently divided into three development categories: GentleSkylines, vertical self-contained communities to innovate the metro's residential skyline; SignatureHomes, a roster of stand out enclaves reflecting the self-made success of its residents; ProudHometowns, a roster of defined communities which continue to flourish for more Filipino families.

13 ongoing developments

At present, the company has 13 ongoing developments valued at P12 billion in Mega Manila alone. Categorized under GentleSkylines are Presidio at Brittany Bay in Sucat, Muntinlupa; and Presidio New Manila in Quezon City; under SignatureHomes are Valenza in Sta.Rosa, Laguna; Residenza and Ponticelli in Bacoor, Cavite; and Mille Luce and Cottonwoods in Antipolo City; and under ProudHometowns are Citta Italia in Imus, Cavite; Amici in Bacoor, Cavite; Amalfi in Dasmariñas, Cavite; Fortezza in Cabuyao, Laguna; and Maia Alta and Woodberry in Antipolo City.

The lineup of eight completed CrownAsia communities in Mega Manila consists of Vivace in Imus, Cavite; La Mediterranea in Dasmariñas, Cavite; Madelaine Place and Classic Square in Bacoor, Cavite; Mia Vita in Antipolo City; Beacon Place in Las Piñas City; and La Brea and Grandwood in Quezon City.

"CrownAsia recently earned a Gold Trusted Brand Award in the Philippine property market from the Reader's Digest 8th annual survey of brand performance," Navarrete concluded, "validating our mission to deliver not merely property projects, but building 'markers of progress' which improves the quality of life of homeowners and contribute to sustained socio-economic growth for Filipinos."

Escaping urban life without leaving the city

THE POND is a big hit among the kids who enjoy feeding the fishes.

FOR ITS HEALING POWER, WATER HAS always been regarded as the "elixir of life"—from the bathhouses in Rome to the holy spring of Zamzam in Mecca, and now up to the Mayfield Park Residences in Pasig City.

It is the soothing sound of water that makes both the modern-day and the ancient Zen practice of meditation and relaxation effective against the stress of urban living.

Such is particularly so in Mayfield Park Residences, an in-city condominium complex whose Zen environment makes a flowing body of water the centerpiece of this sophisticated residential enclave.

Mayfield's pond

Complementing the clubhouse, the pond is cocooned by garden greens and natural stones, making it a virtual rejuvenating nook made more scenic by a suspended wooden bridge. The pond is serenely beautiful during the day and enchanting on clear nights when the kois swim under the reflection of the moon.

"The pond was a welcome surprise when I was contemplating on buying a unit here," says resident Belinda Santos, a young highly successful finance executive who works in a very competitive environment.

"What initially attracted me was the property's attractive price for a 2-bedroom condo and accessibility to my office. Then I saw the overall design concept and the pond by the clubhouse… it was the perfect 'icing-on-the-cake' so to speak and I was convinced, I simply had to have a unit here," she says.

A Zen enthusiast, Belinda believes in the healing power of water. "I read it in a book that ponds in Japanese gardens were highly spiritual in function," she says, "and it serves as an aid for Zen monks to do meditation."

MAYFIELD resident Belinda Santos relaxes near the pond by the clubhouse.

The so-called "white noise" of the flowing water is like a mantra that cleanses the mind of any negative or nagging thought, making relaxation come easily and naturally.

The koi ponds, the mini water falls and the wooden bridge that signifies the link from an island to another or the transition of one stage of life to another, and the great gardens inside the complex were meticulously included in the development's blueprint, with the sole intention of recreating an authentic Zen refuge.

Belinda is just so happy that it is something she can look forward to every day. "The hum of the flowing water never fails to give off a calming effect on me. It's best when I'm out here reading a favorite novel, reviewing balance sheets or just sipping coffee to start a lazy weekend right," she confesses, citing it as her perfect antidote to a stressful day at work, and the ideal complement to her very modern condo unit nearby.

Refuge in the city

Ironically, this haven is in the middle of the city, just a few minutes away from Ortigas Center, Libis Commercial Complex and Araneta Center in Cubao.

Located beside Makro in Cainta, Mayfield Park Residences is near to everything a resident needs and probably offers the last refuge from city life without having to leave the city.

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Sentricon participates in construction convention

THE RECENTLY CONCLUDED CONEX 2006 was a construction convention that gathered together dozens of diverse companies and hundreds of their product lines under one roof. The four-day exhibit was organized by the United Architects of the Philippines and was held at the World Trade Center in Pasay City from last April.

The event coincided with the organization's 32nd anniversary and provided a high-profile venue for the construction and real estate industry to launch new products and services. Among the exhibitors is Sentricon Termite Colony Elimination System, whose authorized operators were on hand to give away advertising and information materials and entice visitors to consider their renowned termite eradication system.

Rotating roster

The rotating roster of Sentricon representatives gave the different operators the chance to make it, and their services, known to convention guests. One such day was allotted, for instance, to Entom Pest Control, Biotech, Topbest Pest Services and Cabuyao Pest Control Services.

Jose Aragon Pabale, general manager of Cabuyao Pest Control Services, explained that as an authorized operator for Sentricon, his job was to enlighten interested parties with information. "Any structure can be infiltrated by termites," Pabale said. "Sentricon is at the UAP's exhibit for exposure. I was invited to join and it's been rewarding because people from different locations in the country inquire about the product, termites and the problems they encountered with regard to termite infestations."

He added that Conex was an opportune time to make contact with people from the industry, as well as casual visitors who have yet to hear about their Sentricon and how termites can be effectively eliminated. "We can see the potential of the business to expand. There were many people who were interested in trying out Sentricon. I've been telling them that they are assured of 100 percent elimination of termites in their homes. The Conex convention allowed us to talk to people about our exhibit on termite control."

Promoting Sentricon

Conex 2006 was also a unique convention for Sentricon, as there was teamwork involved with the other pest control companies during the special occasion.

Says Pabale: "The different authorized operators were there to entertain queries from visitors and possibly potential clients. There are three of us for one day, and there will be different operators the day after. We help each other and are united in promoting Sentricon and distributing materials because we believe in its effectiveness because we have tried it and have undergone extensive training to ensure our success. Aside from termites, other pest management issues are sought by guests of the convention." For more information about Sentricon, interested parties can call them at 882-1767, 882-4513 and 840-3874.

The other participating Sentricon authorized operators were Pest Away Corp., Vira Pest, Pestcon Pest Management, Rentokil Phils., Metropolitan Pest Control, Chemitron Entreprises, NoKaOi International, Mr. Bugmaster and Landnet.

Termite attacks need not be a recurring problem. Protect your homes and establishments once and for all with the Sentricon Termite Colony Elimination System, the winner of the 2000 US Presidential Green Chemistry Challenge Award. Sentricon is safe and have undergone extensive studies and trials to ensure effectiveness. For further information on this trusted pest extermination product, please visit www.sentricon.com.

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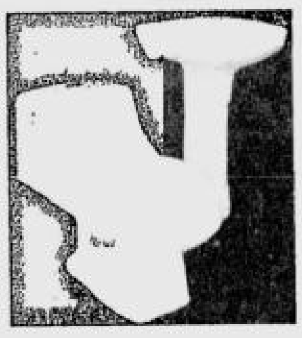

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Joint ventures for realty projects

THE URBAN INSTITUTE OF REAL ESTATE WILL CONDUCT A SEMINAR on Joint Venture and Syndication for Real Estate Projects on July 3, from 1:30 to 6 p.m. at the Maximo Function Room, Max's Restaurant, Glorietta 2, Ayala Center, Makati City.

Topics to be taken up include are Concepts and Types of Joint Venture and Project Syndication; Reasons for Joint Ventures; Obligations of Landowner; Undertakings of the Developer; Role of the Syndicator; Financier's Role; Packaging a JV Proposal; Syndication Agreement; Sharing Schemes; Safety Nets for Developer; Safeguards For Landowner; Important provisions in a JV Agreement; and Participation Mortgages.

Lecturer would be Enrico Cruz, who is a civil engineer and has more than three decades of working experience in engineering, construction, real estate development and education. For inquiries, call Urban at 681-0928.

Advanced tools . . .

From page B2-4

been very essential.

"These softwares have successfully replaced traditional paper and pens for creating design and construction drawings. Today, these softwares allow our firm to simulate reality, giving us the ability to test and visualize in a digital environment," Calma says.

This results in new efficiencies, reduced errors and collaboration across teams and because of these, Calma says they are able to bring their most innovative ideas to their clients.

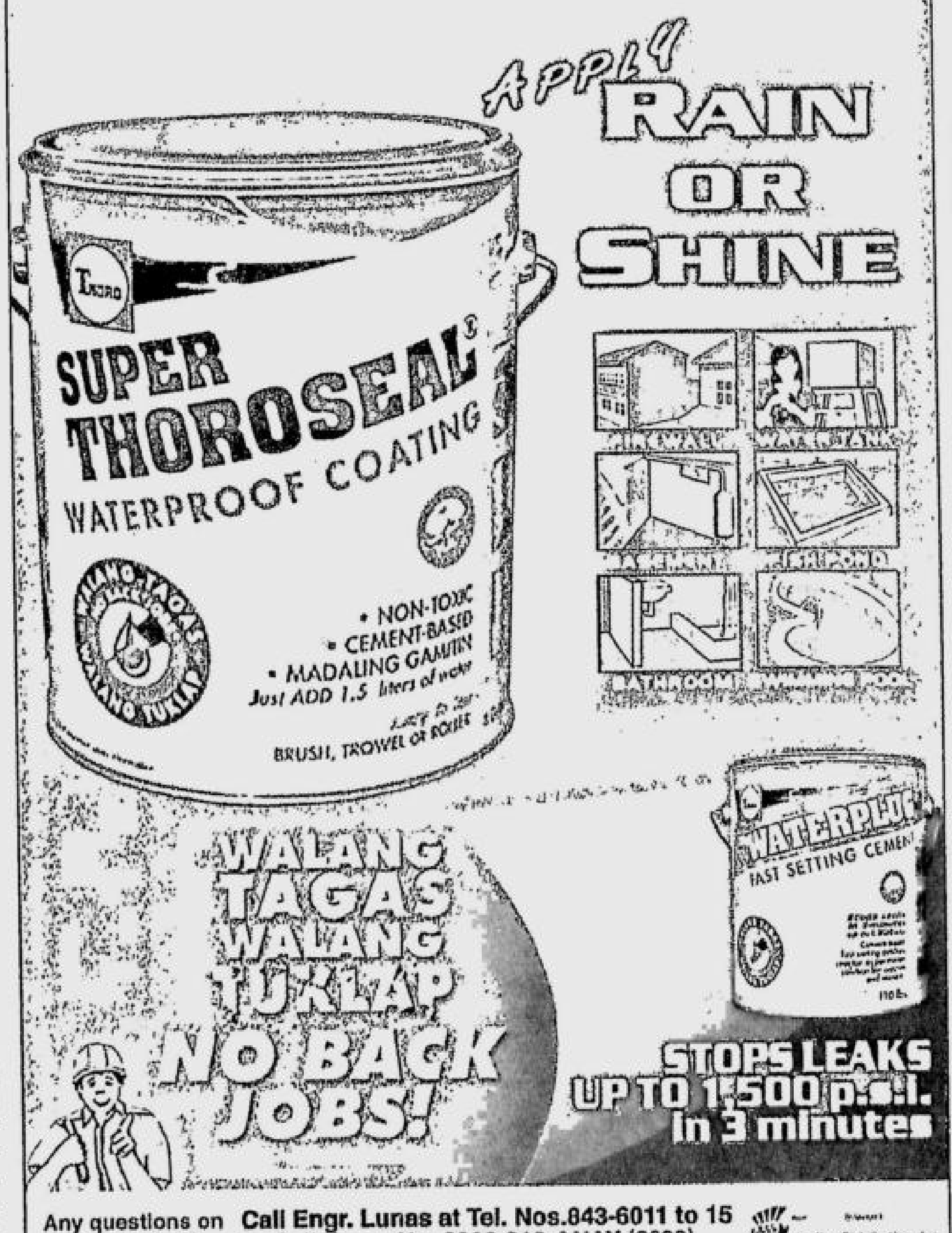
"Take for example the building designs we have proposed for the complex. Because of softwares like Autodesk Revit Building, our team is able to come up with complex designs that would have otherwise taken us days or weeks if we were still using other technologies," Calma says.

Much more, through the three-dimensional designs (using the Autodesk Inventor), Calma says the team is able to present virtual models that accurately predict a design's real-world performance, optimize energy consumption, and minimize waste in the manufacturing lifecycle.

"As a result, we also increased client satisfaction since we have improved the way we communicate with them. Through these softwares they can now easily visualize our design proposals. I believe having these technologies at our disposal enable us to compete more effectively," he says.

THE BRIDGE that Calma's team drew up will link the complex to the rest of the city.

CEMENT TO CEMENT WATERPROOFING



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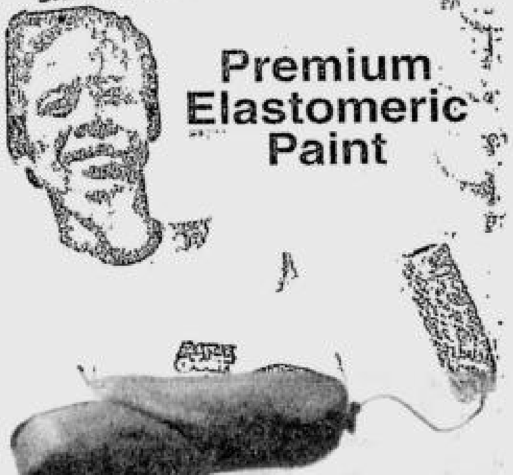

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Advanced tools to match imaginations of architects, designers

By Charles E. Buban

WHEN THE MANAGEMENT of the Cultural Center of the Philippines recently held a public competition to come up with a design that will transform this government property into a symbol of Philippine heritage and arts as well as a thriving commercial hub, Lor Calma Design Associates and its partner IP Santos and Associates came up with a very interesting concept.

"The competition was a welcome challenge for us considering CCP's historical and cultural significance. It also gave us a chance to communicate our idea on how to transform this 57.8-hectare complex into something that we could feel proud of," says LCDA architect and interior designer Eduardo Calma.

But before drawing up the entry, Calma's team identified two things that must be addressed in their upcoming design: the need to link the complex to the rest of the city and pedestrians coming from the eastern side of Roxas Boulevard and the absence of a dominant structure that would unify all the other structures within the complex.

Gateway to the complex

"For the first challenge, we needed a bridge that can serve as a gateway to the complex. This bridge will lead to a sculptured garden of varying ground levels and to the proposed visitor's information center," Calma says.

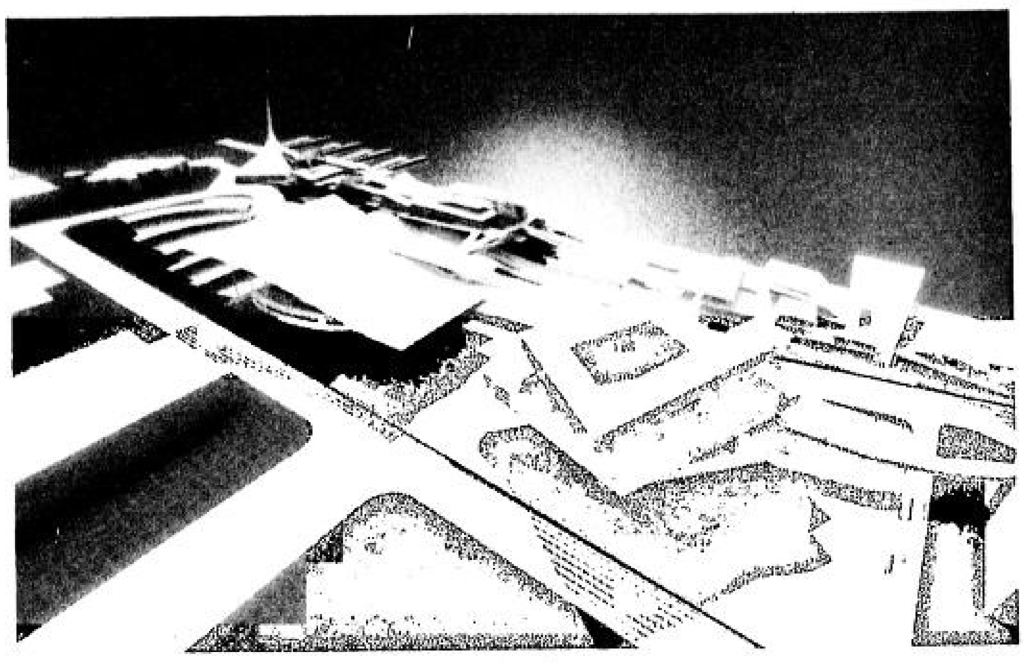
From here Calma's team proposed several elevated pedestrian bridges and multilevel ramps leading to other landmarks like the Artist's Center, Performing Arts Center and a 60-meter lighthouse at the western tip of the promenade.

"The result will be an interconnected, highly walkable complex ground that opens up a lot of spaces for holding exhibits and other cultural presentations," Calma explains.

Essential

In preparing the design entry, Calma says Autodesk softwares have

ADVANCED/ B2-4



COMPLEX structures that filled the proposed design.

Incredible living by the bay
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Being a mover and a shaker can be a very draining experience, especially in the frenetic pace of Makati. Getting boxed in by all the big decisions can take its toll on you, especially when you are unable to reward yourself for all the hard work that you put in. An entire day can leave you too drained and burnt out to even reap the rewards of your success.

At Mactan Tower, coming home is a reward in itself. Soak in the incredible sunset and the sea breeze at the shore as you relish the day's end, or stretch your legs with an invigorating bike ride around the bay. Or spend valuable moments with family and friends and recharge yourself at the exciting establishments around the area, such as the Mall of Asia, Blue Wave and Malate Circle. Although it may seem like a world away, Mactan Tower is a mere half an hour's drive from the hustle and bustle of your Makati office.

Spectacular living is just within your reach at Mactan Tower, with new and incredibly easy payment terms and affordable deals. Experience the bayside lifestyle and check out our available units now. **Call 551 0888** to see what's waiting for you by the bay.

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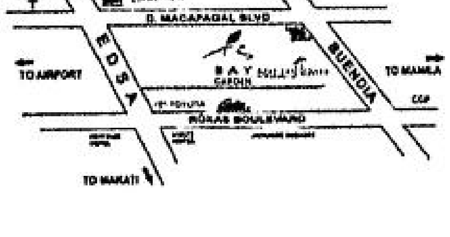

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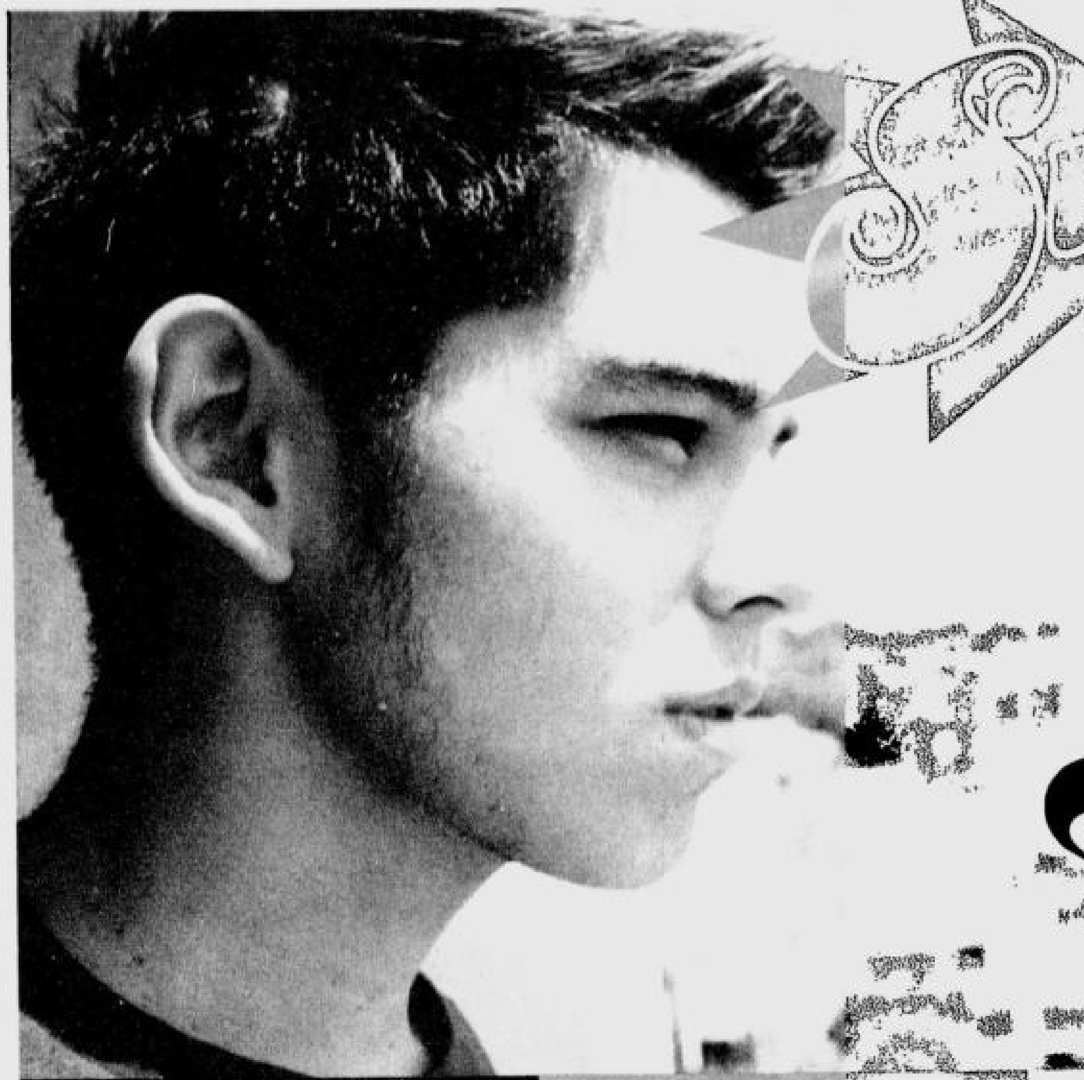

Roaming

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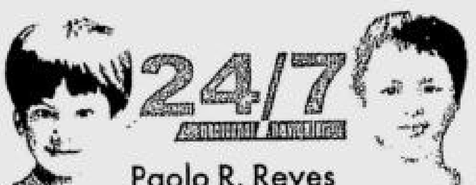
Cover star: RAYMOND GUTIERREZ in BENCH
Shot on location at BEBEK HOTEL, Istanbul, Turkey

Super! goes gaga over the World Cup, and crazy at the 59th Cannes Film Festival

Ruffa, Richard & Raymond in Istanbul, Turkey
page E1

Underwear Fever



24/7

Paolo R. Reyes
Janine Cuenca-Dario

FOR A B-SPORTS CRAZY nation like ours (meaning Basketball, Billiards, Boxing, Ballroom Dancing, Badminton and Bowling), it's so refreshing indeed to know that like the rest of humanity, the whole country is now intently glued to their TV sets in the evenings and early mornings watching the 2006 FIFA World Cup telecast from Germany.

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While sports fans eagerly await this year's World Cup champion, the whole country won't mind feeling under the weather as it waits with baited breath for this year's Super Hot edition of the Bench Fever Underwear and Denim Show happening on Friday, June 30 at the Araneta Coliseum. Temperatures and curtains will rise at 7 p.m. Special guests at the disco inspired event will be '70s-'80s recording giants Sister Sledge and The Village People. Both groups have had several chart topping dance tracks and their mere presence elicited *ooohs* and *aaahs* at the iconic Studio 54 in New York, the world's most famous and notorious disco. Tickets to this once every two years only show are getting rarer than the Philippine Eagle, so if you want to score some free tickets, start running to the nearest Bench store and join their ongoing promotions. The good news though is that you need not be in your undies to get the tickets. And don't forget your Earth, Wind and Fire outfits, Donna Summer lyrics and John Travolta moves. Mirror balls are welcome too. So all together now, We are family... In the Navy... He's the greatest dancer, YMCA!

Other Super! 24/7 events:

June 24, Saturday

Kjwan at 6Underground; Pinikpikan at 70s Bistro; Urban Groove: R&B Night at Citrus; Salsa Night at Ricco-Renzo Café; DJ Martin Pulgar at Embassy Club; Campusition Night at Mag:net Café; Pump Saturdays at Jill's; DJ Badboy Jeff at Temple; Soundsgood at Embassy Cuisine; DJ Bam del Valle at Government; DJs Bliss & Shorty at Prince of Jaipur; Massive Saturdays at Bed; Joint band at Off the Grill; Classified at Dish; Flintstones at Merk's; Nina at the Music Museum

June 25, Sunday

Palette's Eye art exhibit at UP Jorge B. Vargas Museum; Champagne Lunch at Paseo Uno (Mandarin Oriental); Champagne Brunch at Spiral (Hotel Phil. Plaza); Acoustic Night at Phi Bar, Cascades at the Manila Hotel

June 26, Monday

Sitti: Bossa Night at Stonehouse; Salsa Night w/ Salsa Filipinas at Mezze; Ethan band at Temple; I Don't Like Mondays! w/ DJ Ro at Gweilos Makati; Silk & Steel at Merk's; Teresa Avila at The Tivoli; Follies de Mwah at Club Mwah

June 27, Tuesday

Cuisine Royale with House DJ Manolet Dario at Embassy Cuisine; Sitti at Tavern on the Square, Greenbelt; Kickback Tuesdays at Manila DJ Club; Juicy Nytlife at Citrus; Guarana at Café Havana Greenbelt; Acoustic Night at Temple; Engelbert Humperdinck at Araneta Coliseum

June 28, Wednesday

Retro DJ Boyet Almazan at Strumm's; DJ Steve Mills at Absinth; DJ Papi Santos at Mezze; DJs Karl Ty & Cao Ocampo at Embassy Cuisine; Funksouljah at Manila DJ Club; Birthday Bash at Citrus; DJs Mars Miranda & Johnyverse at Embassy Club; DJ Joffy Cruz at Gweilos Makati; DJ Crash at Temple; DJ Brit at Government; Double Happiness at Prince of Jaipur; Jazz Night at Mag:net Café; Julia Duncan at Merk's

June 29, Thursday

Coup with House DJ Manolet Dario at Fiamma, Reggae Night at 6Underground; BBC's SweetSuiteSoul w/ DJ Mike Constantino at Sake Lab; GottaHaveHouse! With DJs Mark Jentes and Wendell Garcia at Capone's; SPIT at Mag:net Café; G Lounge at Mezze; Latina Thursday at Prince of Jaipur; Fluxxe: Whatever Thursdays at Manila DJ Club; Supahstar DJ Thursdaze at Bed; DJ Badboy Jeff at Temple, Nuvo Soul with Elian Habayeb at Nuvo

June 30, Friday

Bench Fever Underwear and Denim Show feat. Sister Sledge and Village People at the Araneta Coliseum; 6UG Album Launch at 6Underground; Decadance w/ Boyet Almazan at Jill's; Sitti: Bossa Night at Stonehouse; DJs Karl Ty & GP Reyes at Citrus; DJ Owens Sun at Embassy Club; HouseBeats at Mati; MyHOUSE at M Café; DJ Marie Garcia at Embassy Cuisine; DJ Brit at Government; Jive Fridays at Temple; The Jerks at 70s Bistro; Route 70 & Dawn at Merk's; DJs Scratchmark & Shorty at Prince of Jaipur; Nina at the Music Museum

Schedules may change without prior notice. For more information and a complete listing of events, text 24/7 through your mobile phone and send to 2949 (Globe) and 209 (Smart). Log on to mag24-7.com or pick up your free copy of 24/7 NOCTURNAL NAVIGATOR at bars and restaurants around the city. Submit your schedules before Wednesday to events@mag24-7.com and mag24_7@yahoo.com.

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Bayanihan spirit comes alive with GCASH GenerosiTXT

Mobile technology has truly, deeply changed Pinoy life today. More than the freedom of communication that it allows us to have with our loved ones, it now also empowers us to be of service to our fellow Filipinos. With a mere text message on our cell phones, we can now send donations to other Pinoys stricken by poverty or disaster, showing them that people still do care about other people. It is this *bayanihan* spirit that Globe hopes to encourage and enable through its new GCash GenerosiTxt, a mobile commerce donations facility.

The country's first integrated mobile payments platform, GCash adds mobile donations to its roster of m-commerce transactions, such as GCash Bills Bilis Bayad, for bills payment, GCash2Load for prepaid phone, internet, and online gaming reloading, and GCash Pera2Pamilya for money transfer and remittances. Now, registered GCash users can make mobile donations to a selection of 15 institutions, including prominent government agencies, religious organizations, and non-profit foundations. To give contributions to your selected beneficiary, simply text **"DONATE <space> AMT <space> MPIN <space> INSTITUTION CODE"** to 2882.

To further support these organizations in collecting more funds for their projects, G-Xchange Inc., a wholly-owned subsidiary of Globe handling GCash, will be contributing P1.00 for each donation made using GCash to the top three agencies who will receive the highest number of text donations via GCash from June to December this year.

GCash has previously implemented mobile fund drives for disaster relief and emergency assistance programs of international organizations such as the Red Cross and Unicef, and it is anticipated that this new service will generate similarly generous contributions from the public.

With the GCash GenerosiTxt donations service comes the realization that Globe has transformed the mobile phone from a mere connectivity device to a powerful tool that truly enriches people's lives through communications.

Call 2882 now for free using any Globe or TM cellphone to get more information on how to donate to your favorite charitable institution or to find out the many ways GCash can improve our lives!

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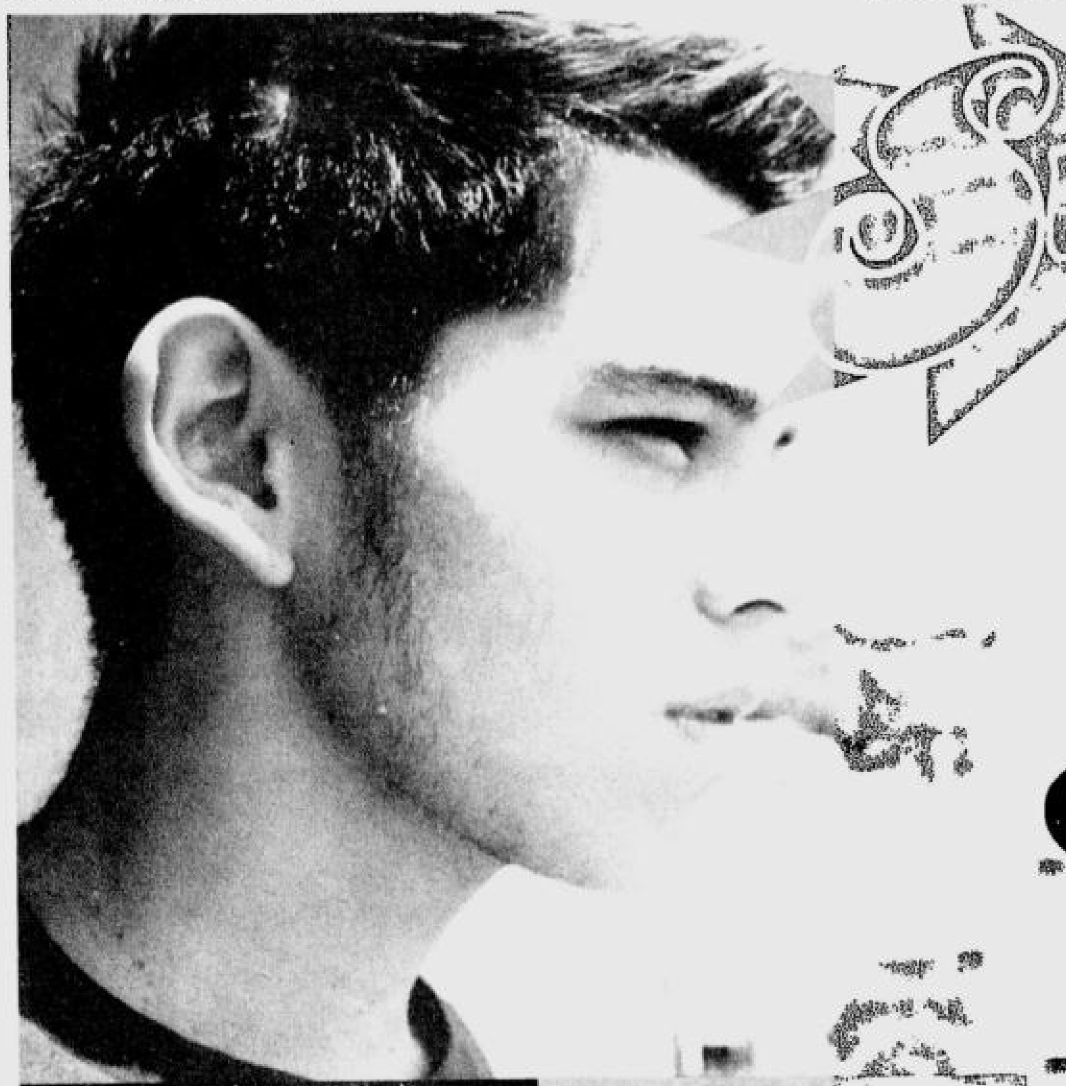

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Coup with House DJ Manolet Dario at Fiamma, Reggae Night at 6Underground; BBC's SweetSuiteSoul w/ DJ Mike Constantino at Sake Lab; GottaHaveHouse! With DJs Mark Jentes and Wendell Garcia at Capone's; SPIT at Mag:net Café; G Lounge at Mezze; Latina Thursday at Prince of Jaipur; Fluxxe: Whatever Thursdays at Manila DJ Club; Supahstar DJ Thursdaze at Bed; DJ Badboy Jeff at Temple, Nuvo Soul with Elian Habayeb at Nuvo

June 30, Friday

Bench Fever Underwear and Denim Show feat. Sister Sledge and Village People at the Araneta Coliseum; 6UG Album Launch at 6Underground; Decadance w/ Boyet Almazan at Jill's; Sitti: Bossa Night at Stonehouse; DJs Karl Ty & GP Reyes at Citrus; DJ Owens Sun at Embassy Club; HouseBeats at Mati; MyHOUSE at M Café; DJ Marie Garcia at Embassy Cuisine; DJ Brit at Government; Jive Fridays at Temple; The Jerks at 70s Bistro; Route 70 & Dawn at Merk's; DJs Scratchmark & Shorty at Prince of Jaipur; Nina at the Music Museum

Schedules may change without prior notice. For more information and a complete listing of events, text 24/7 through your mobile phone and send to 2949 (Globe) and 209 (Smart). Log on to mag24-7.com or pick up your free copy of 24/7 NOCTURNAL NAVIGATOR at bars and restaurants around the city. Submit your schedules before Wednesday to events@mag24-7.com and mag24_7@yahoo.com.

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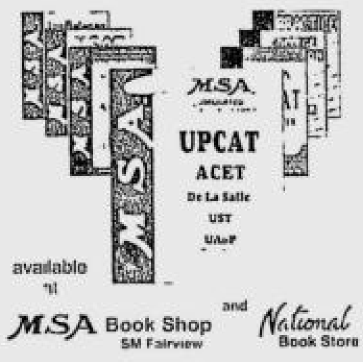

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Mobile technology has truly, deeply changed Pinoy life today. More than the freedom of communication that it allows us to have with our loved ones, it now also empowers us to be of service to our fellow Filipinos. With a mere text message on our cell phones, we can now send donations to other Pinoys stricken by poverty or disaster, showing them that people still do care about other people. It is this *bayanihan* spirit that Globe hopes to encourage and enable through its new GCash GenerosiTxt, a mobile commerce donations facili

The country's first integrated mobile payments platform GCash adds mobile donations to its roster of m commerce transactions, such as GCash Bills Bills Bayad, for bills payment, GCash2Load for prepaid phone, internet, and online gaming reloading, and GCash Pera2Pamilya for money transfer and remittance. Now, registered GCash users can make mobile donations to a selection of institutions, including prominent government agenci religious organizations, and non-profit foundations. To give contributions to your selected beneficiary, simply text **"DONATE <space> AMT <space> MPIN <space> INSTITUTION CODE"** to 2882.

To further support these organizations in collecting more funds for their projects, G-Xchange Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of Globe handling GCash, will be contributing P1.00 for each donation made using GCash to the top three agencies who will receive the highest number of text donations via GCash from June to December this year.

GCash has previously implemented mobile fund drive for disaster relief and emergency assistance programs of international organizations such as the Red Cross and Unicef, and it is anticipated that this new service will generate similarly generous contributions from the public.

With the GCash GenerosiTxt donations service comes the realization that Globe has transformed the mobile phone from a mere connectivity device to a powerful tool that truly enriches people's lives through communications.

Call 2882 now for free using any Globe or TM cellphone to get more information on how to donate to your favorite charitable institution or to find out the many ways GCash can improve our lives'

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Jollibee Maaga ang Pasko	JBPASKO
Jesus is Lord Church	JIL
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Phil. Foundation of Christ's Youth in Action Inc	CYA
Phil. Foundation of Christ's Youth in Action Inc.	RACETO25
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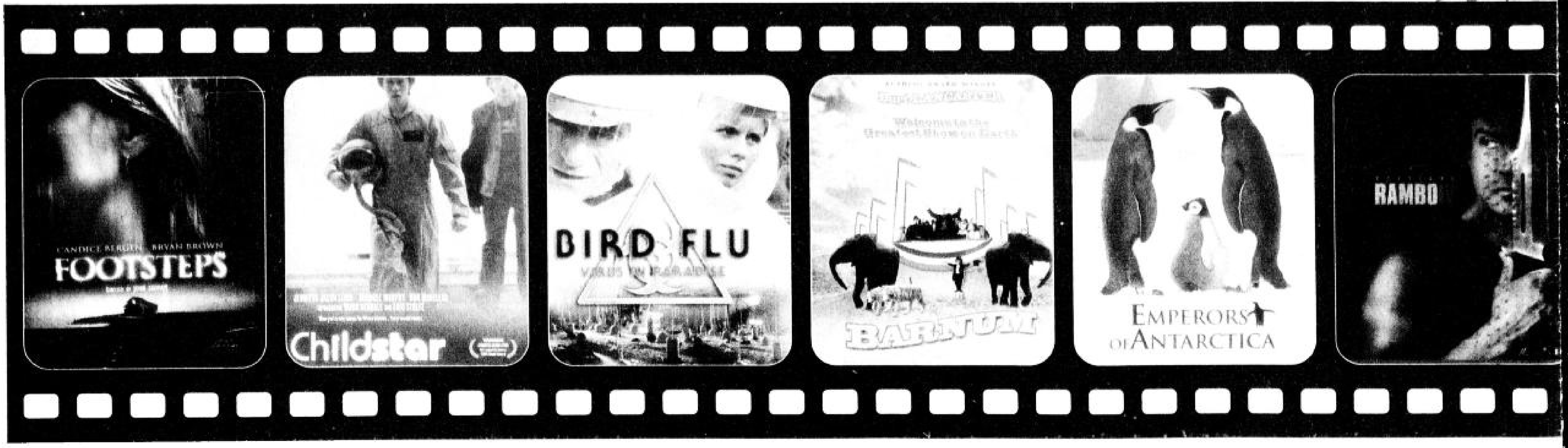
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A beauty queen's Cannes checklist

By Bianca Valerio
Ms Mouton Cadet '06

I'M OFFICIALLY A BEAUTY QUEEN! I'VE certainly aspired to achieve many things in this lifetime but winning the Ms. Mouton Cadet 2006 was definitely [illegible] the [illegible] and then some.

It was such an honor that [illegible] Wine Cellar and Baron Philippe de Rothschild, distributor of Mouton Cadet wines, awarded me a trip to the 59th Cannes Film Festival at Nice, France [illegible] with silver screen royalty on the red carpet.

Of course as this year's reigning mademoiselle, I had certain obligations to fulfill.

Pack for a three-day trip to attend the 59th Cannes International Film Festival. Check.

Travel with my Cannes Survival Kit: Ms Mouton Cadet 1st Runner Up Denise Albert and Embassy's Tim Yap. Check.

Check-in at the Hotel Martinez along Cannes' famous La Croisette. Check.

Stay at the same hotel as Monica Bellucci and husband Vincent Cassel, Claudia Schiffer, [illegible] and French Vogue's editor, Carine Roitfeld, to name a few. Check.

Have a three-hour lunch with Baron Philippe de Rothschild's Emmanuel Lebas and Anne Cusson, tabled right next to Penelope Cruz. Check.

Posed for the Hollywood Reporter at the hotel lobby wearing fabulous couture from Randy Ortiz for screening night. Check.

Waved at and greeted all the screaming fans outside hotel as they assumed we were Asian Super Stars. Loved that. Check.

Walk along the La Croisette in our couture gowns with endless paparazzi following us and their cameras to the theater. We were really starting to believe that we [illegible] Asian Super Stars! Check.

Remembered to just breathe, smile, [illegible] directions and savor the moment once we got to the entrance of the theater grounds and set foot on the red carpet (fashionably late of course). Check.

Sashayed down the Red Carpet as [illegible] as I could ever be, stealing glances at the gigantic projector flashing clips of [illegible] such a surreal experience. Check.

Watched the French film "Days of Glory" [illegible] true story by Rachid Bouchareb about North Africans [illegible] World War II. Check.

[illegible] theater terrace especially prepared for Baron Philippe de Rothschild to formally introduce and welcome this year's Ms Mouton Cadet and Mouton Cadet 1st Runner-Up. Check.

Capped off the evening by partying till dawn at Cannes' largest and most famous [illegible] the VIP. Shared some bubbly with Hollywood celebrity Mario Van Peebles. Check.

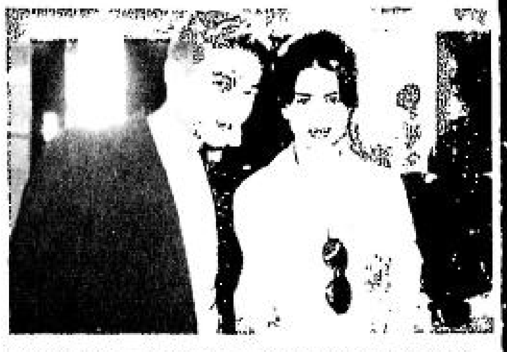
Spent the next day at Fragonard [illegible] history and museums. Then had late four-hour lunch at one of France's top restaurants [illegible] hour away from Cannes. Check.

[illegible]

REIGN SUPREME. Ms Mouton Cadet '06 Bianca Valerio (in Randy Ortiz) and 1st runner-up Denise Albert (in Jun Escario) before the red carpet

BIANCA Valerio with Emmanuel Lebas of Mouton Cadet

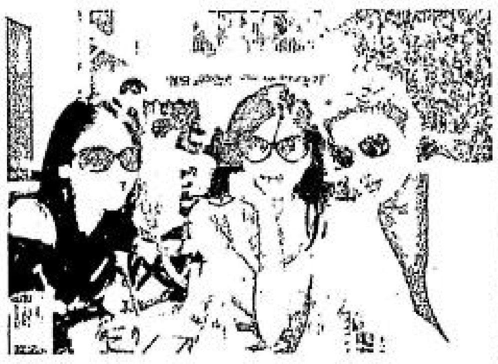
BARON Philippe de Rothschild's main men, Emmanuel Lebas and Thierry de Tourniel



TIM YAP and Penelope Cruz at the lobby of Hotel Martinez before the premiere of her film "Volver" directed by Pedro Almodovar.

BIANCA with Mario Van Peebles.

THE CANNES catwalk. Striking a pose along the French Riviera.



WE HAVE ARRIVED. Denise, Bianca and Tim.

Wine, Women, and Ci

A Celebration of Masterpieces at the 59th Festival de Cann

By Denise Albert,
First Runner-Up Miss Mouton Cadet 2006

Fill ev'ry glass, for wine inspires us,
And fires us
With courage, love and joy.
Women and wine should life employ.
Is there ought else on earth desirous?
John Gay 1685-1732
The Beggar's Opera [1728],
act II, sc. i, air 19

EVERY SPRING, CHIC mediterranean paradise Cannes at the French Riviera becomes a veritable melting pot for a massive smorgasbord of films from every corner of the globe. This year's Festival de Cannes was well-attended by the brightest stars in the international showbiz constellation, with the likes of Tom Hanks, Penelope Cruz, Beyonce Knowles, and Monica Belluci gracing the Red Steps of the Grand Theatre Lumiere—the main theater showcasing films from the Official Selection of this year's festival.

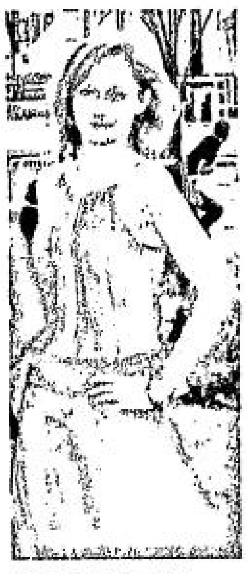
But while this grand international extravaganza would not be complete without the stars, our exhilaratingly luxurious experience at the 2006 Cannes Film Festival consisted of a distinct recipe that was not entirely hinged on star-spotting: it was the beautiful scenery, glamorous people, the chic and expensive boutiques, and more importantly, the wining and dining alongside the main attraction: the films. To this Filipino, having an exhaustive wining and dining experience coupled with cinema at Cannes was definitely a new and refreshing encounter. On so many levels there are many reasons why the wining and dining are integral parts of the Cannes Film Festival and France itself.

Mono-sensory experience

Like a glass of premium French wine, such as Baron Philippe de Rothschild's Mouton Cadet, a cinematic masterpiece is more than just a mono-sensory experience. Savoring it involves more than just taking it in through one of your senses. The senses of sight, smell, and taste are key in the pleasurable enjoyment of wine. When you observe a work of art on the silverscreen, you listen as you see the story unfold before you on the screen. You are taken for a ride as you unveiling layer after layer in the experience. The glittering black-tie, red carpet premiere we attended was of the film "Indigenes" (Days of Glory) by Paris-based Algerian film master, Rachid Bouchareb. A gripping and raw portrayal of the North Africans who fought for France during World War II, the movie was an inspiring saga that forced us viewers to explore our beliefs about heroism. It actually led me to question whether, if in the same position, I would hold to my beliefs in patriotism and nationalism, and die for them even when the bleakest of situations would determine there would be no way I would win. The multitude of layers in the film again revealed itself as the movie spurred on and took me through every frightening, heart-breaking, and tragic moment.

TEAM PHILIPPINES on the Cannes Film Festival red carpet.

THE BARON'S SON. Julian de Rothschild.



PINK PRETTY. Anne Cusson of Mouton Cadet

Hundreds of films

One thing that surprised me at the Cannes Film Fest was how many films were being featured. Literally, there were hundreds of films, playing at public theaters all the way to the Grand Theatre Lumiere. French films, Japanese films, Portugese films, Chinese films, Spanish films, American films, Taiwanese films… the list is endless. And within each of these entries from every conceivable nation, there are genres of every kind: cinematic epics, tragedies, action-packed films, adventure flicks, dark comedies, glossy mainstream features (like Beyonce Knowles starrer "Dreamgirls"), horror films (like Asian import "The Eye" which has already been seen in the Philippines)—even romantic comedies like "Love Wrecked" with pop culture icon Amanda Bynes and slapstick comedies like "Van Wilder 2: The Rise of the Taj!" For one to attend the full twelve-day run of the Festival de Cannes means having a dizzying array of movies to choose from. Anything to suit your mood and taste. Again, this is coincidentally just like choosing your wine. Chardonnay, Cabernet, Pinot Noir, white, red, bubbly, dry, sweet, bitter… you have the luxury of choice in selecting what to take to heart (and belly).

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So in a nutshell, our wondrous trip to Cannes was a thrilling experience. There was the women (this petite writer included), the bottles upon bottles of fine French wine, and of course the plethora of films. It is probably safe to say that wine and cinema can, in their own right, both be considered works of art. Winemakers and filmmakers create inspiring masterpieces from the world around them that inspires them in turn, their prized creations undergoing processes that will only answer to the command of time to achieve maturation. Rush these processes or short-cut them and you end up with lousy yields. And just like works of art, wine and cinema, to borrow words from John Gay's "The Beggar's Opera," both have the ability to "inspire us, and fire us, with courage, love and joy."

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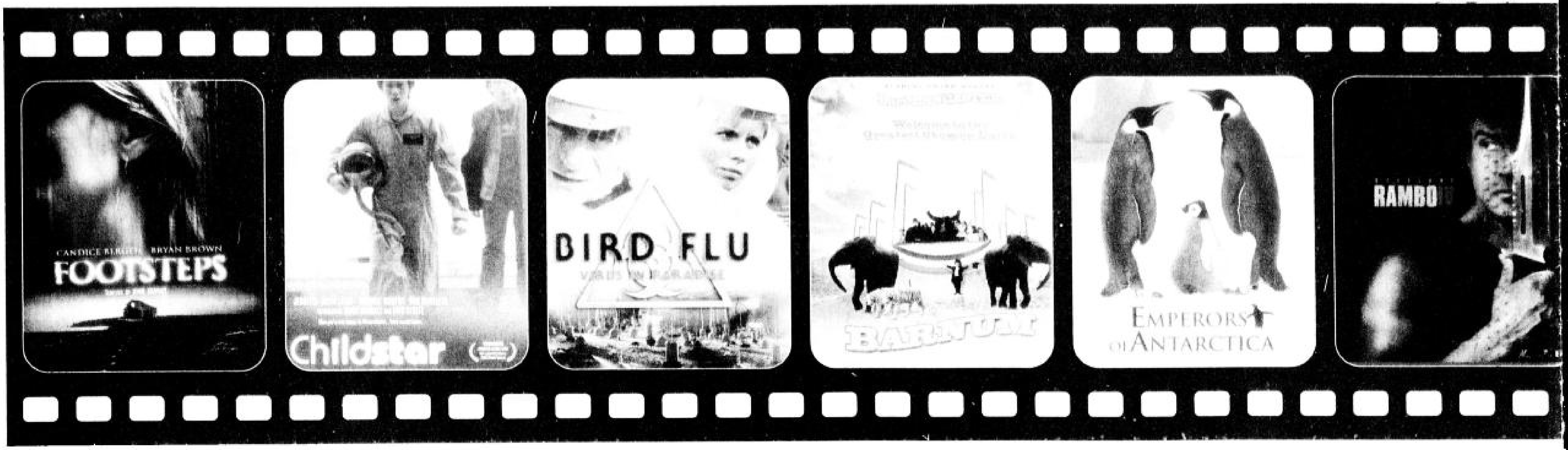

A beauty queen's Cannes checklist

By Bianca Valerio,
Ms Mouton Cadet '06

[illegible]

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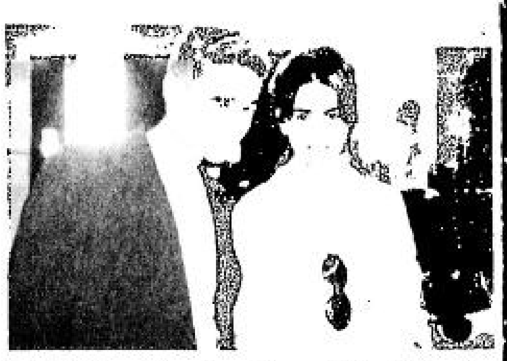

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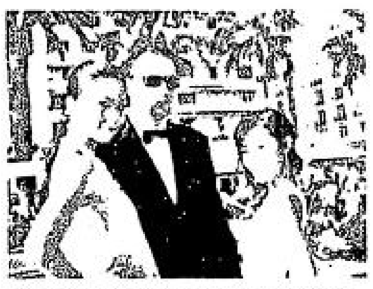

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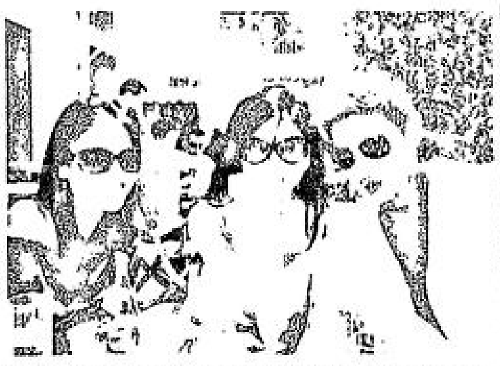

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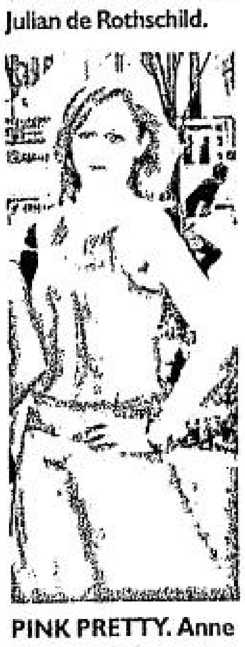

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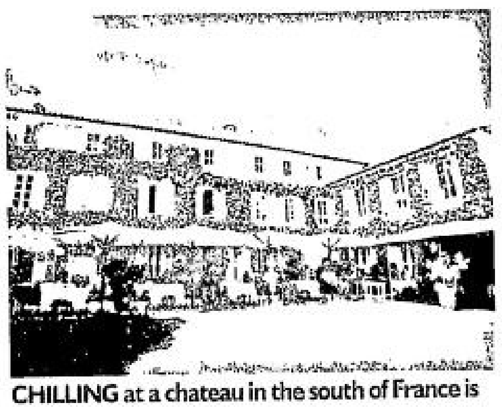
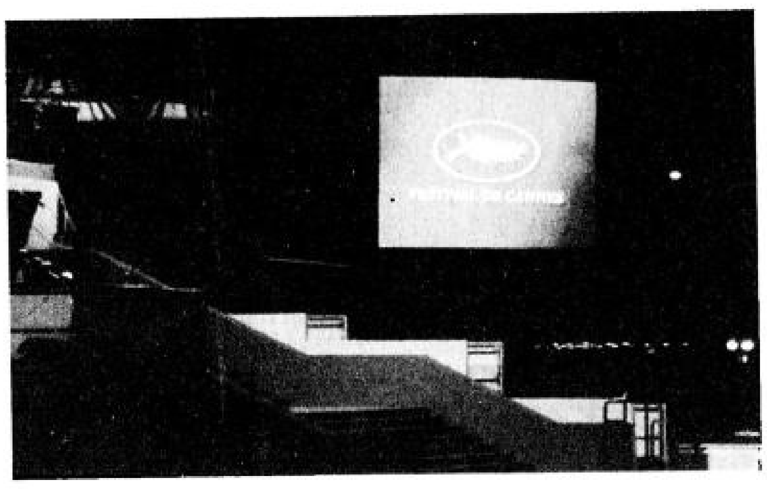
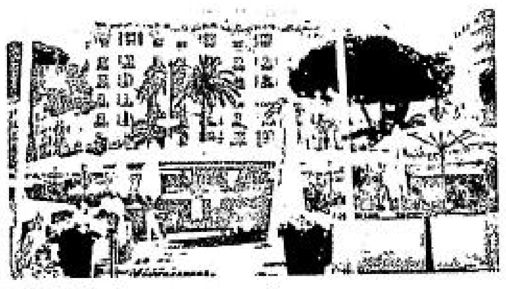
MICHAEL DOUGLAS EVAN RACHEL WOOD
KING OF CALIFORNIA
WE'RE ALL SEARCHING FOR SOMETHING.
VAN DAMME
TIL DEATH
DAY OF THE DEAD

There was the women (this petite writer included), the bottles upon bottles of fine French wine, and of course the plethora of films


CHILLING at a chateau in the south of France is part of the Mouton Cadet experience at the Cannes Film Festival.




WHERE the stars stayed.

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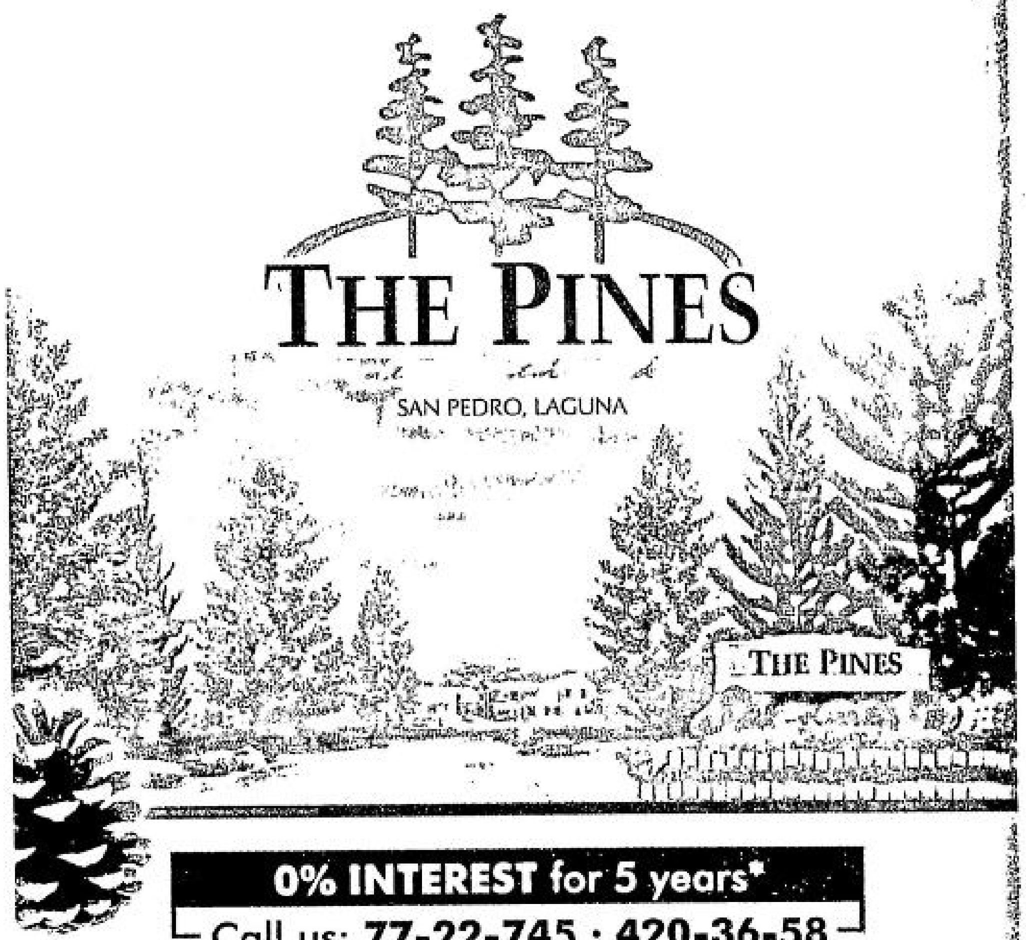

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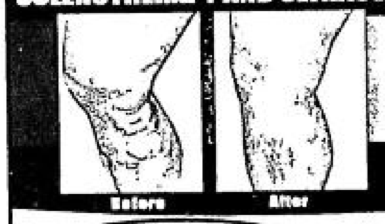

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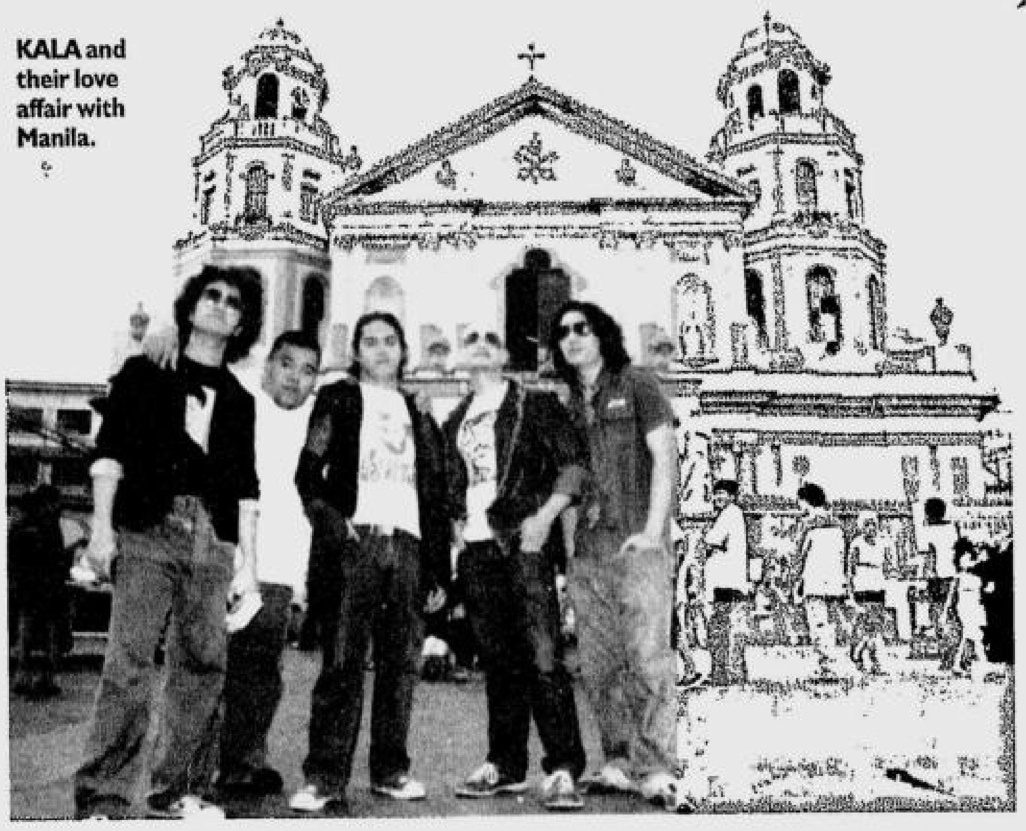
KALA: Manila sound is back in the groove



KALA and their love affair with Manila.

THE LOCAL MUSIC SCENE is in full bloom, with various Pinoy artists producing world-class hits. Local music is now penetrating the mainstream. In the center of this OPM Golden Era comes a resurgence of a sound that is distinctively Pinoy—Manila Sound.

Manila Sound is a genre that was popularized by the Hotdogs in the 70's with the famed hit "Manila." Today a fresh new band named Kala is reviving and redefining this genre.

Kala is behind the new hit song "Jeepney," which is currently number one on the charts. Its music video features actress Snooky Serna.

"Manila Sound is the soundtrack of our everyday life in Manila," said Brian who has written and co-written a number of tracks for Kala's debut album, "Manila High."

The album is distributed nationwide by Sony BMG Music Entertainment Philippines Inc.

Rock for a cause

Kala has been performing at various venues in support of Rock Ed Philippines, which promotes nation-building through music. They released an EP last year entitled RockEdition: For the Benefit of the Filipino Youth to promote the United Nation's Millennium Development Goals and support the Global Call to Action Against Poverty. "Music is the purest language that we can use to reach out to individuals and unite them to make a difference in themselves. We must be the change we wish to see in our lives, our country and the world," said Kala's guitarist JP Tanchanco. They tend to urge people or bands not to go to rallies or instigate chaos and partition but instead encourage them to unite, look at the positive side of things and promote peace. And just like other artists who are ambassadors of the Global Call to Action Against Poverty (Bono, U2, Santana and others), they recruit followers to wear a white band and join them in saying "No More Excuses."

MANILA HIGH

Aside from their advocacy, they have established their distinction in the music scene with their unique sound. Very few bands these days have associated themselves with that kind of identity popularized by the Pinoy artists of the 70's and Kala's move seemed to note that a new genre is paving the way to challenge the "alternative pop" and "pogi-rock" type of sound common these days.

"*Sa palagay ko, ang pinoy* music listeners and artists *ay nagmature na… marami nang lumalabas na makabagong tunog ng* OPM," said vocalist Mike Grape. "*May boses na ngayon ang mga banda at* composers. Pinoy artists are claiming their throne."

Rene Garcia, of the Hotdogs, noticed Kala's sound as 'carrying the funky groove of the old 70s.'

Brian noted that it was Garcia who inspired them to classify their music as 'Manila Sound.'

Influences

"*Pinaghalo-halong* influences *ng mga myembro ang tunog ng* Kala. Manila Sound is something we can all be proud of. It gives OPM pride and personality."

Kala's second single entitled "Manila High" will be launched this July. The music video is a continuation of their debut video for Jeepney.

Other members of Kala are William Gabaldon (bass), and Raymond Daylo (drums). They took the name Kala from *kalabasa*—the prime content of a cake-making college project they later called "Kala Cake Project."

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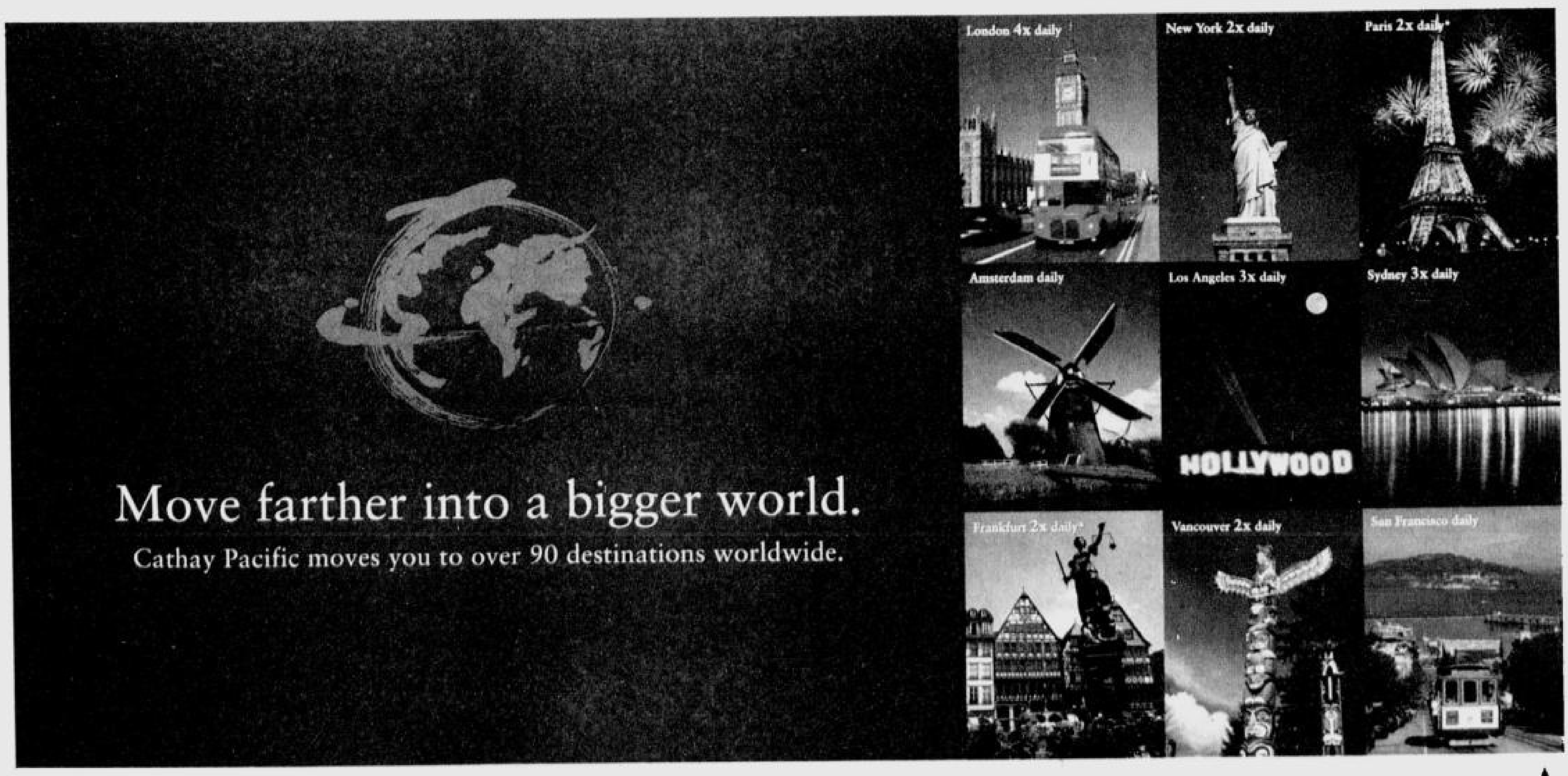

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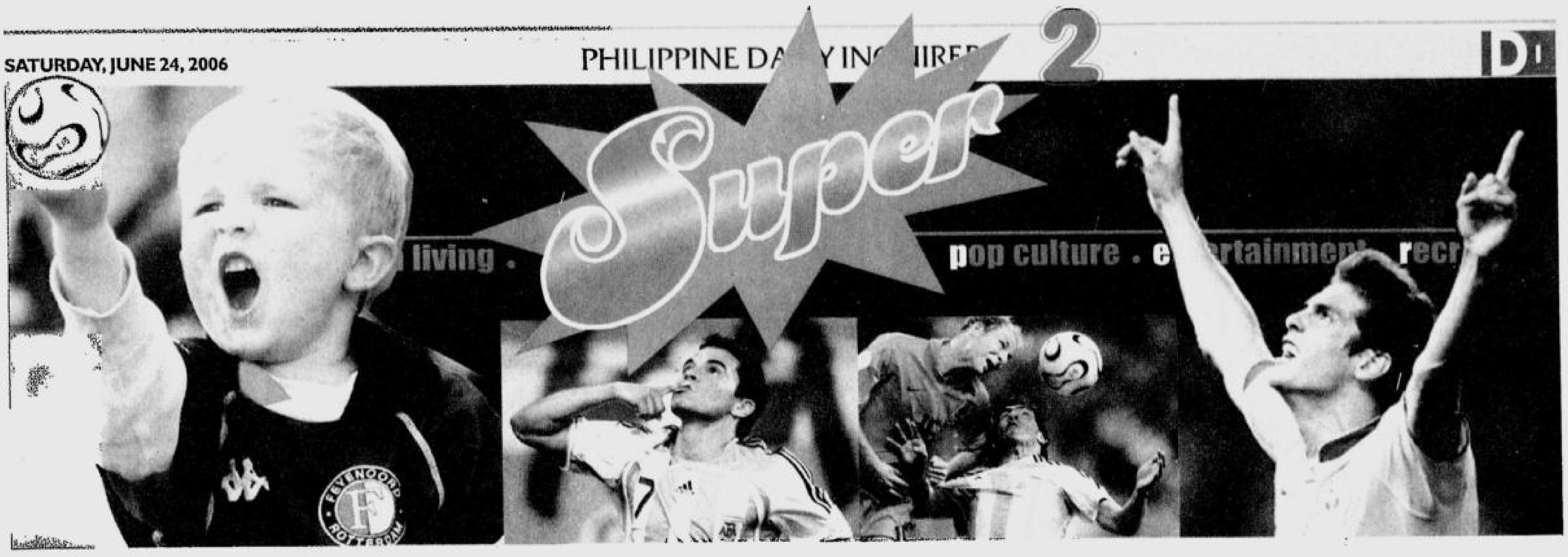
Super 2
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Beautiful

The sick leaves, the high fever, the frustrations and the hopes of the rare Pinoy football fan watching the World Cup

OUT THE WINDOW

Tals Diaz

THAT LINE FROM THE FILM "American Beauty" just comes to mind—"sometimes there's so much beauty in the world I feel like I can't take it, like my heart's going to cave in." And that is the closest thing that can describe what I feel every four years, when the world gets together to celebrate "the beautiful game." Ah … the World Cup! Life is just too sweet, and everyday until July 9 will be a beautiful day.

Such havoc this beautiful game has wreaked on my system though that everyday, I pretty much resemble a character in the "Night of the Living Dead." It requires superhuman effort to live a normal life when you watch the live games everyday at the witching hour, soused with a lot of San Mig Lights of course, catch a couple of hours of shuteye before waking up and heading to a full day of work, energized on-

BEAUTIFUL/ D2

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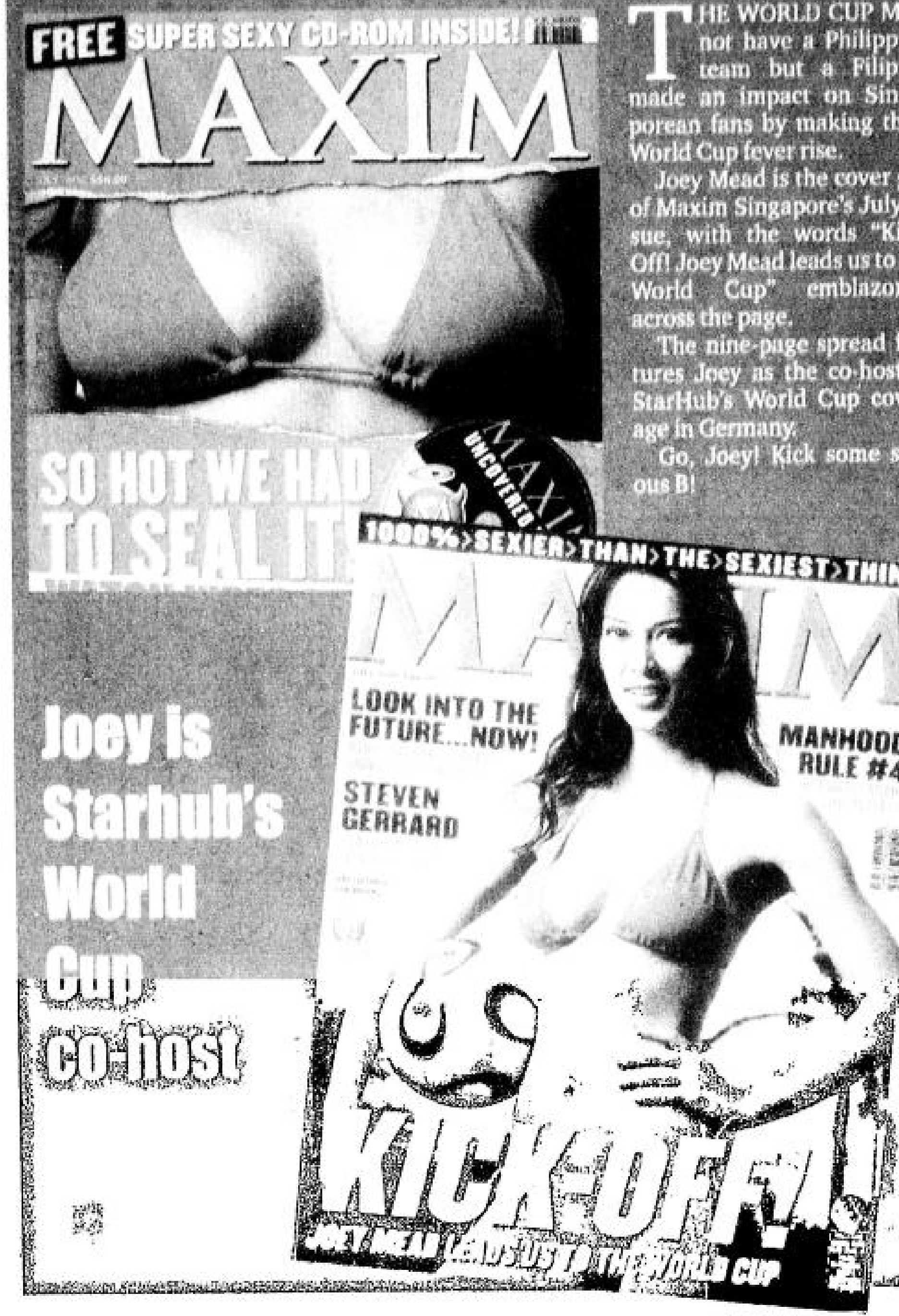
Maxim-um exposure for Joey Mead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JOEY MEAD LEADS US TO THE WORLD CUP

Joey is Starhub's World Cup co-host

THE WORLD CUP MAY not have a Philippine team but a Filipina made an impact on Singaporean fans by making their World Cup fever rise.

Joey Mead is the cover girl of Maxim Singapore's July issue, with the words "Kick-Off! Joey Mead leads us to the World Cup" emblazoned across the page.

The nine-page spread features Joey as the co-host of StarHub's World Cup coverage in Germany.

Go, Joey! Kick some serious B!

Vax-pertise

Discover Your Power to Protect

Are you afraid of being scarred for life?

By Dr. Ma. Carmen Nievera
Pediatric Infectious Disease Consultant
Asian Hospital and Medical Center

Few viral infections are more feared than the dreaded Chickenpox. Older people have a tale or two about how this illness has literally scarred them for life. The Varicella-zoster virus actually causes two diseases, Varicella (Chickenpox) and Zoster (Shingles). Chickenpox, the primary infection, usually occurs in childhood and is quite distinctive because of itchy skin rashes which are vesicular or blister-like lesions on the face, scalp, or trunk, though these can spread over the entire body. These lesions are usually 1-4 mm in diameter, superficial and delicate, and contain clear fluid on a reddish base. Besides having between 250-500 itchy blisters of different stages (from reddish raised lesions to blister formation to crusting) on the body, one can have mild fever, dehydration, headache and tiredness, lasting about 5-10 days. The virus then "hides" in the nerve ganglia during acute infection. Thereafter, Zoster or Shingles results when the virus reactivates and returns to infect the skin and produces a unilateral eruption of lesions following an area of nerve distribution (dermatome). Though not well understood, factors which are associated with recurrent disease include aging, decreased immunity, exposure to Varicella while in the mother's womb, and Chickenpox at an early age.

Varicella is highly contagious. Clinical infection will develop in 80-90% of non-immune persons exposed in a household. Secondary cases are usually more severe than the primary cases. The virus is spread by the airborne route and requires direct contact with an infected individual for transmission. It can spread from skin lesions as well as from the respiratory tract by coughing, sneezing, or talking. A person with chickenpox is contagious 1-2 days before the rash appears until all blisters have formed scabs. It will take from 10-21 days after contact with an infected person for Chickenpox to develop.

The clinical course of this illness in healthy children is generally mild. But, they may miss 5-6 days of school when ill. Adults and children with malignancies or immunosuppression may have more severe disease and have a higher rate of complications. These include secondary bacterial infections involving any organ of the body, dehydration, pneumonia, meningitis, encephalitis, hemorrhagic varicella, arthritis, and Reye's syndrome (specially in those on chronic aspirin intake). Complications are higher in persons older than 15 years and infants younger than 1 year of age. Adults account for only 5% of reported cases of Varicella, but account for approximately 35% of mortality. Many people are not aware that before the Varicella vaccine was introduced in the US, that country experienced 11,000 hospitalizations and 100 deaths from chickenpox every year — in other words, one child and one adult died each week from this disease.

Pregnant women are of special concern. The onset of maternal varicella within a few days before or after birth may result in overwhelming infection of the newborn and a fatality rate as high as 30%. Moreover, chickenpox in pregnant women is associated with risk of transmission to the fetus resulting in congenital varicella syndrome. This is characterized by low birth weight, microcephaly, hypoplasia of the limb, skin scarring, and encephalitis, among others.

The Varicella Zoster virus is such an infectious agent that general measures are not useful for the prevention of chickenpox in susceptible individuals. Some protection may be achieved by isolation of these patients in rooms with negative air pressure. Nevertheless, all experts agree that **vaccination is the best way to prevent chickenpox**. This protects children and adults from the severe complications and death associated with the disease. Even with uncomplicated cases, lost time from school and work and the cost of medications or treatment can take a significant toll on the family.

Who should be vaccinated? All children between 12-18 months of age should have one dose of chickenpox vaccine, except those who already had the disease. Also, children between 19 months and their 13th birthday who have not had chickenpox should be vaccinated with a single dose. Persons 13 and older who have not had chickenpox should get 2 doses of the vaccine 4-8 weeks apart. Immunity is specially important in persons who have close contact with children or high-risk persons such as teachers, day-care employees, college students, staff of correctional institutions, military personnel, and adults living in households with children. Non-pregnant women of childbearing age and international travelers should also get vaccinated. Because not all persons are eligible to receive this vaccine, it is always best to ask your doctor if it may be given to you.

For protection against vaccine preventable diseases, ask your doctor about the suitable vaccines for every member of the family, depending on their age and lifestyle. GSK Family Vaccines is partnering with the medical community, so more patients can discover their power to protect their loved ones inside and outside the home. Get more health information and advice on family protection through vaccination.

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Beautiful

From page D1

ly by adrenaline and boatloads of coffee. I haven't slept or eaten much since the kickoff last June 9, and I'm afraid that my eyebags have permanently taken root in my face. This morning, I actually forgot to brush my hair, much to the amusement of my work mates, who casually pointed out that my *buhaghag* hair could double as steel wool. When I attempt to explain my zombie-in-a-deserted-island look to people by saying, "it's the world cup!" more often than not, I'm greeted with blank stares and bemused looks. Tough crowd! Such is the fate of being a football fan in the Philippines; it's akin to talking to Pinoys about cricket or bobsledding or rugby. I may as well be speaking in an ancient Assyrian tongue in our basketball-crazy culture.

So it can get to be a bit frustrating. I'm not talking about my internal clock gone haywire—I can handle the sleepless nights for a month; for me that "pain" is part of the pleasure. The frustrations run much deeper. For one, it's painful on the pocket. Because football is not popular in the Philippines, it's not shown live on regular TV or cable. If you want to watch it at home, you have to pay to have it hooked up. Only a handful of bars in the city show the games live. Most of these bars are either watering holes of expats, or upscale bars that charge a mint for beer. Some of these establishments even ask for a cover charge, in order to compensate for the hefty amount they had to pay Solar Sports in order to have the games shown live in their establishment.

The good thing that comes out of this set up is that you get to hang out with other football-crazy fans from all over the world, Pinoys and expats alike, whose collective excitement charge the atmosphere with this electricity that makes watching the games even more pleasurable. Plus you won't get a furrowed brow when you talk about Argentina's demolition of Serbia-Montenegro the week before. In my experience watching the Brazil-Australia game last weekend at National Sports Grill, it was just incredible to see Pinoys, Aussies, Koreans, Brazilians and Japanese fans in one venue, mesmerized by the game.

This ball.

I guess the most frustrating thing about being a big football fan in the 'Pinas is getting kicked in the gut with comments like this: "Jeez, what's all the fuss about, it's a bunch of people kicking around a ball for God's sake." Just today, a good friend living in Chicago e-mailed me complaining about the similar absence of football fever in the US. "It's crazy how the Americans have NOT a single ounce of World Cup fever," she writes, "the news tries so hard to make the US team look good to get people interested—but it's not working. My American manager has a sign outside his office—"it's just friggin' soccer." Absolute blasphemy!"

The truth is that, yes, the game is pretty much that simple—it's a bunch of people kicking around a ball towards a goal. Yet it's that very simplicity that is so profound. This simple thing—this ball, can bring the world together. To paraphrase the FIFA commercial, "it drastically changes the world … it closes the schools, closes the shops, closes the city … stops a war. This simple ball gives people everywhere something to hope for, gives countries respect where respect is in short supply. And achieves more than the politicians ever could." Imagine that, civil war in the ravaged African country, the Ivory Coast, stopped after three years, and its president declared a truce because they qualified for the World Cup for the first time? How wonderful it is that the world talked about Ghana, when they won against the Czech Republic? Once every four years indeed, a football does the impossible, it can overturn powers, glorify poor nations, and celebrate cultural differences, all because of a shared passion and love of the game.

The International Fan

Another question lobbed to me: "but the Philippines is not playing in the World Cup, so why are you watching?" This isn't an issue, say in Thailand and Malaysia, two countries who don't have teams competing in the Wor
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Football in Iloilo

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when there is a draw.
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Los Angeles
PRIVILEGE

DEF JAM executives Noah Sheer, Rick Sickhaeim and Mike Chester; Frankie

Tru-ly yours, from

FROM LA TO MANILA. Tru Youth's Jon Herrera with DJs E-man and Virman

By Davi

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VICKY Herrera, Patty Grandidge, Bea Constantino, Rosario Herrera, Francis Dayao, Mark Nicdao, Bryanboy, Erik Cua,

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CATCH THE FEVER!

In my humble attempt to spread the football fever among Pinoys, here are a few sites and YouTube links to check out:

Official FIFA World Cup site:
fifaworldcup.yahoo.com
For match schedules:
http://www.soccerphile.com/soccerphile/wc2006/schedule/schedule.html

A few good videos:
A Simple Ball:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8CcS4XqAt2o&eurl=
Scotland didn't make it to the World Cup. Again.
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JIKO_L2JuGw&mode=related&search=
Sick Days
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SV9igBdqRH0&mode=related&search=
Ivory Coast Qualify!
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Mundial
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tNcWwmFYq1M&search=world%20cup

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aving goals that are so
hard-fought—when they finally happen, you just appreciate it so much more. Perhaps we Pinoys could learn so much from this value: That the things truly of worth in this world can't be acquired instantly; you build something truly valuable with discipline, hard work, and a whole lot of patience!

Yet I do think more interest could be fanned with proper funding and promotion of the sport. Ah, there's the rub. There are no leagues where we could train, say, the extremely talented football players in Barotac Nuevo, Iloilo (which is believe it or not, the country's soccer capital as FHM Philippines reports, or more aptly tagged, "Twilight Zone Philippines" where residents barely bop to the basketball beat and where people don't worship Shaq). There are no leagues because there is a lack of funding. To get funding from big corporations, you need to drum up a critical mass of interest to actually make it worth the investment. It's a long, long Möbius Strip of reasons.

Check out the action, and get high on football

Pinoys and the game

I am still hopeful though that Filipinos could learn to love football too. Perhaps all we need is to just pick up a ball, kick it around more and start playing it. Hell, that's how I contracted the fever in the first place, when I played for the girls' team back in Ateneo. The same college friends I've played with and watched the World Cup games in 1994, 1998 and 2002 are still the same feverish females e-mailing me every minute about the games—even if I haven't seen them in years and they're scattered across the globe living their own lives now. Now if the passion for this game can bring my ol' friends and I together again across the oceans, relish old memories and look forward to future World Cups, even just by the virtue of the Internet, just imagine how this sport unites so many people elsewhere in the planet?

One game, one world indeed. Now that is beautiful.

Natalie; Marques Houston; Mila J and Chris Stokes, and Baby Bash

LA to Manila

d Milan

HERRERA'S TRU YOUTH APPAREL WAS RE-
tly launched in Los Angeles during the birth
bash of one the most influential DJs in the
ndustry—DJ E-man. He is currently the music
of Power 108, the most popular hiphop station
is talent has taken him far—he's been a perfor-
DJ for artists like Tamia, Krazy Bone of Bone
nd Harmony, Baby Bash, and is also the only
act of Mariah Carey during her concerts. The
by invitation party was held in the high-end
club in Hollywood where guests include Jer-
upri, Frankie J, Baby Bash, Natalie, Marques
and a whole lot more. It didn't just stop there,
ich was continued in Manila during Jon Her-
rthday party in Embassy Superclub. Guests in
ila launch were wowed when DJ Virman, an-
hiphop DJ in LA, spun and surprisingly played
om Kylie, Kelly Clarkson and The Cardigans.
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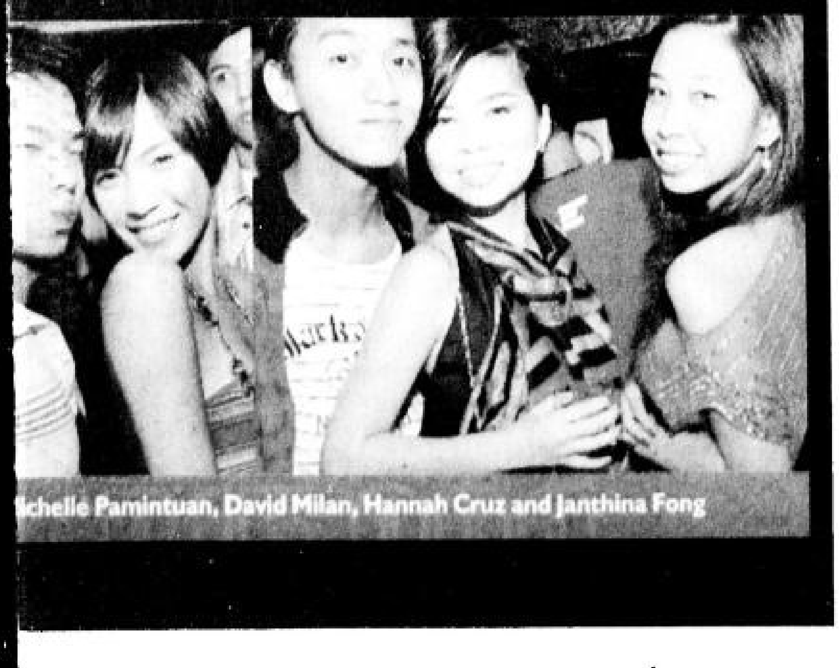
MANILA'S VERY OWN. DJ Mars Miranda



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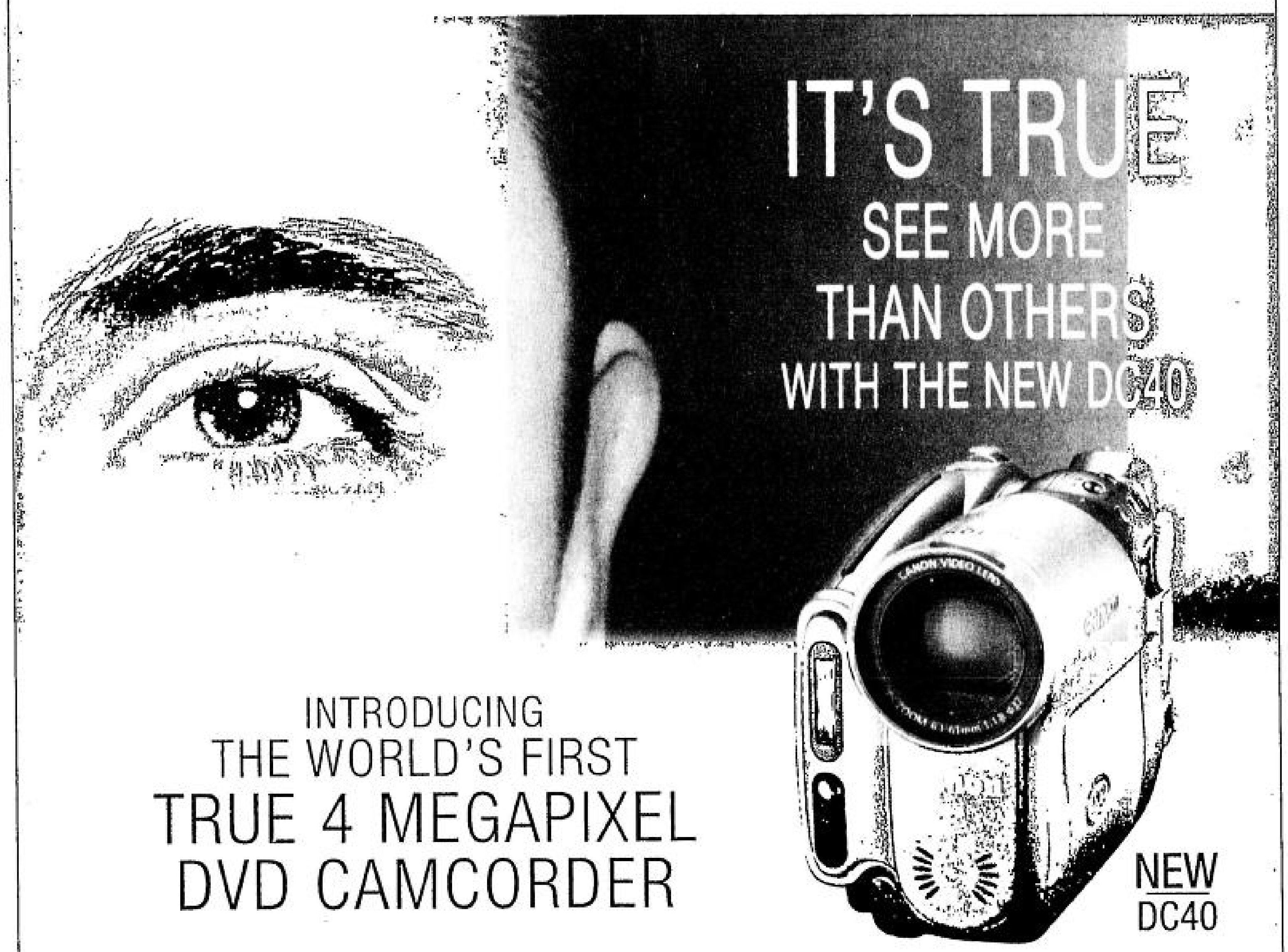

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DC10
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• 2.5" LCD
• High resolution 16:9 widescreen mode

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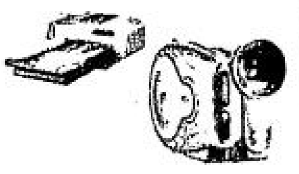
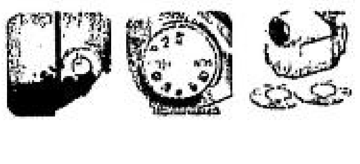
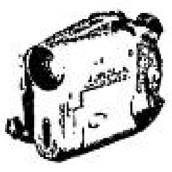
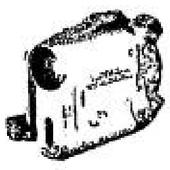
DVD R·RW









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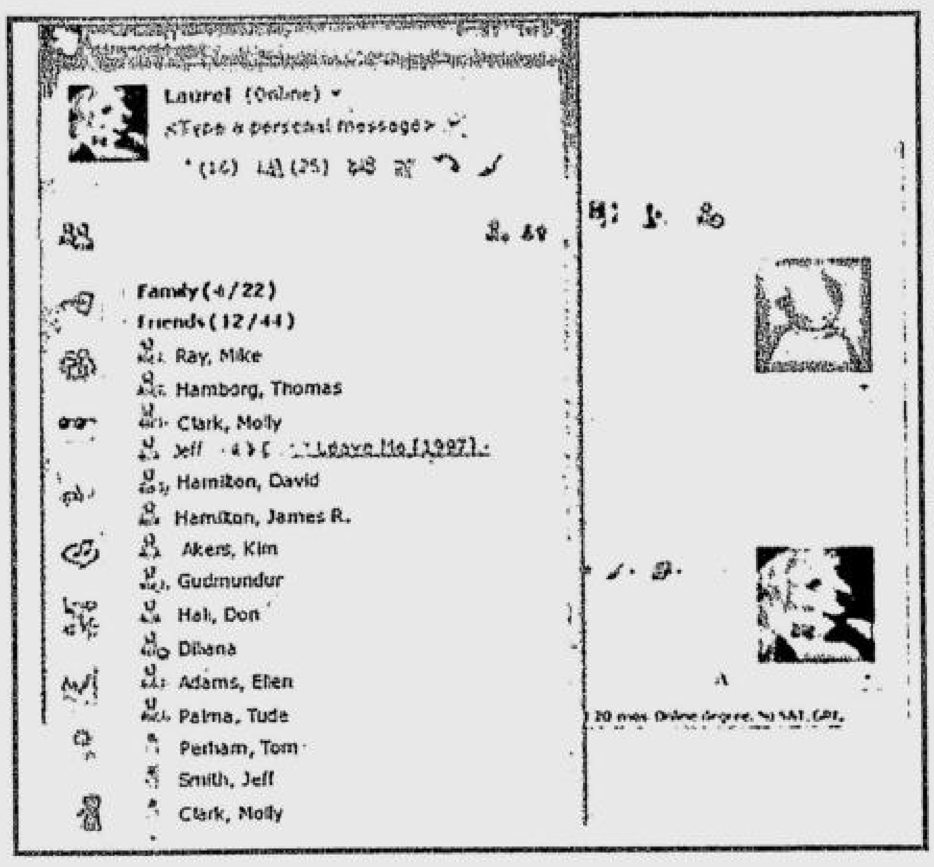
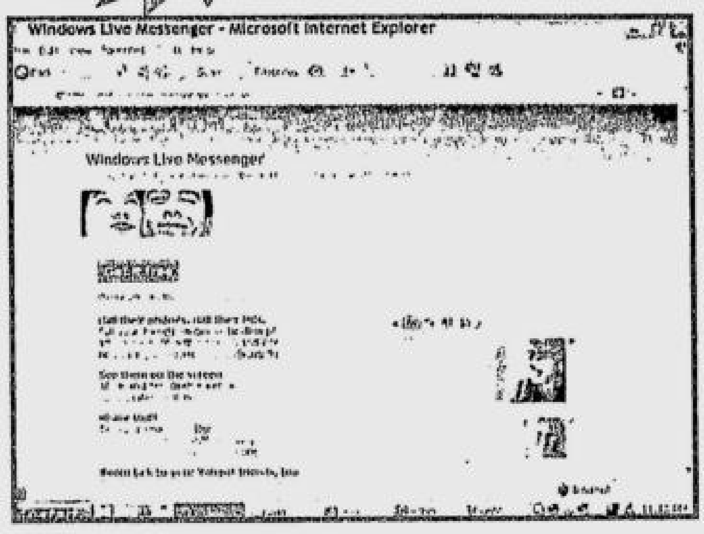


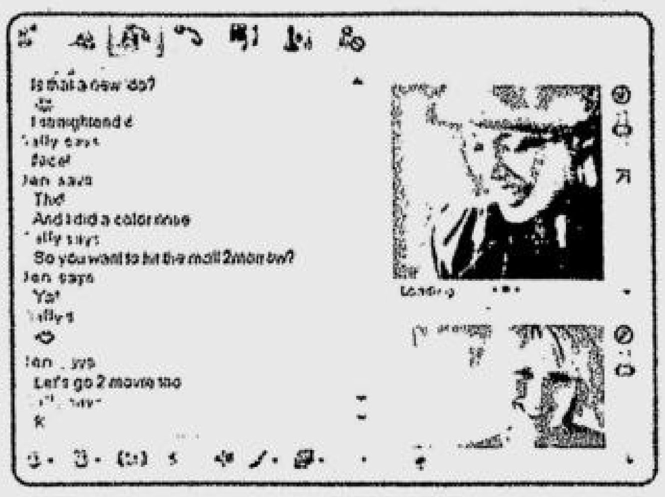
Laurel (Online)
<Type a personal message>
(16) (25)

Family (4/22)
Friends (12/44)
Ray, Mike
Hamborg, Thomas
Clark, Molly
Jeff - Leave Me (1997)
Hamilton, David
Hamilton, James R.
Akers, Kim
Gudmundur
Hall, Don
Dilbana
Adams, Ellen
Palma, Tude
Perham, Tom
Smith, Jeff
Clark, Molly



Windows Live Messenger - Microsoft Internet Explorer

Windows Live Messenger



Is that a new do?
I straightend it
Sally says
Face!
Jen says
Thx!
And I did a color rinse
Sally says
So you want to hit the mall 2morrow?
Jen says
Ya!
Sally s
Jen says
Let's go 2 movie too
K

SUPER SELECTION!

Live in 3, 2, 1 ...

Say hello to Windows Live Messenger, the next generation of MSN Messenger for the Super generation

By Pam Pastor

WITH TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPING faster than you can say Bill Gates, companies and consumers are playing a game of catch-up, trying to make sure they are always on top of IT news.

Here is this week's news: Asia, say hello to Windows Live Messenger.

This messenger promises to kick the butt of your old messenger with added features like easy sharing folders and video calling.

"Windows Live is all about giving consumers the tools and services they need to be in control as they stay connected to the people they care about, on top of the information that is important to them, and protected across all of their online activities. The vision is based on putting people at the center of their digital life and creating a seamless experience across their PC, devices, applications and the web," said Alex Stewart, Microsoft's Asia Pacific director for the Windows Live and MSN business.

No kidding

He's not kidding. In its desire to "unify your world, relationships and interests," Windows Live Messenger provides you with tools to enhance your online life. This next generation of the MSN Messenger does not only provide an instant messaging service, it also connects you to the internet—to your e-mail, blog and a search engine with the click of a mouse.

Great news for people in long-distance relationships—Windows Live Messenger includes a free, synchronized audio and video service which allows customers to view and talk to their friends through their PCs. And to make sure conversations are clear—Microsoft released a line of webcams optimized especially for Windows Live Messenger. The first of the cams are the Microsoft LifeCam VX-6000 and Microsoft LifeCam VX-3000.

Sharing made easy

File-sharing is easy—all you have to do is drag and drop to share your files with friends. And now your messenger can act as your little black book too—Windows Live Contacts lets you subscribe to your friends contacts so you can stay in touch constantly. These contacts are not just accessible through the messenger, you can also use MSN Spaces and Windows Live Mail to access them. More than 25 million customers are already taking advantage of this feature—now that's a lot of people to connect to.

The messenger is integrated with other Windows Live services including Windows Live Search, Windows Live Local, Windows Live Mail and MSN Spaces. This integration allows users to read blogs, view online photos, find directions, get answers to their questions, send e-mails and visit websites while enjoying their Windows Live Messenger experience.

There's also a Forget Me feature, preventing other people from using your account, after you use Windows Live Messenger at an Internet cafe.

It's all part of "bringing your online world together."

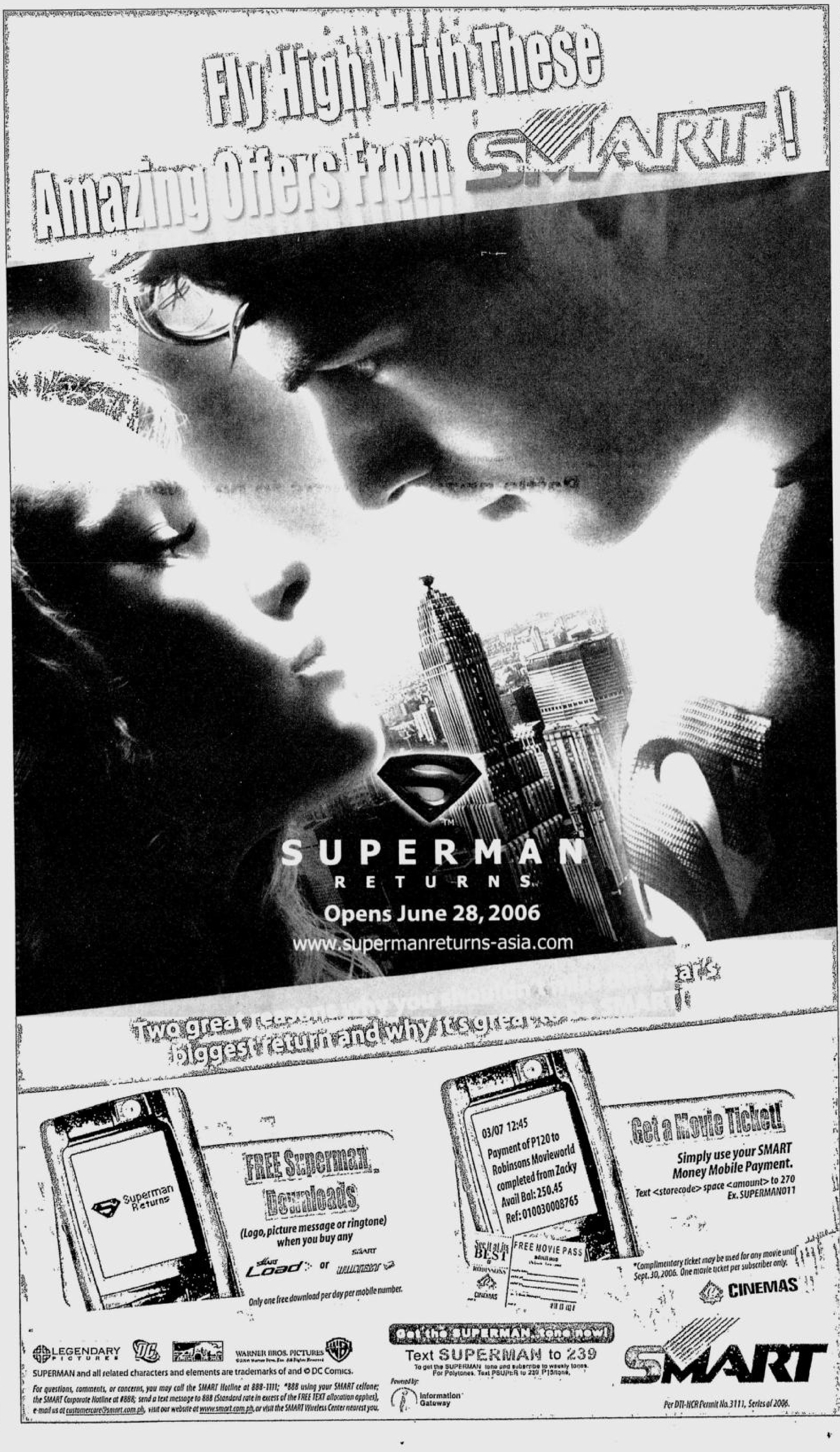
And things are only starting.

"The advancements in technology really has created an impact with the way we live our lives. It's great to see a lot of innovations in the way we communicate and stay connected—from the mobile phones to instant messaging. I think Microsoft is doing a great job with Live Messenger because, from what I read on the Internet, Live Messenger will soon allow us to communicate with people who use Yahoo! voices. This is going to make the IM world even bigger," said Mike, a self-confessed IM addict.

And the craziest part? They say this is only the first of more than 20 new Windows Live services they would be launching throughout the year.

Bring it on, Bill.

Visit www.live.com.



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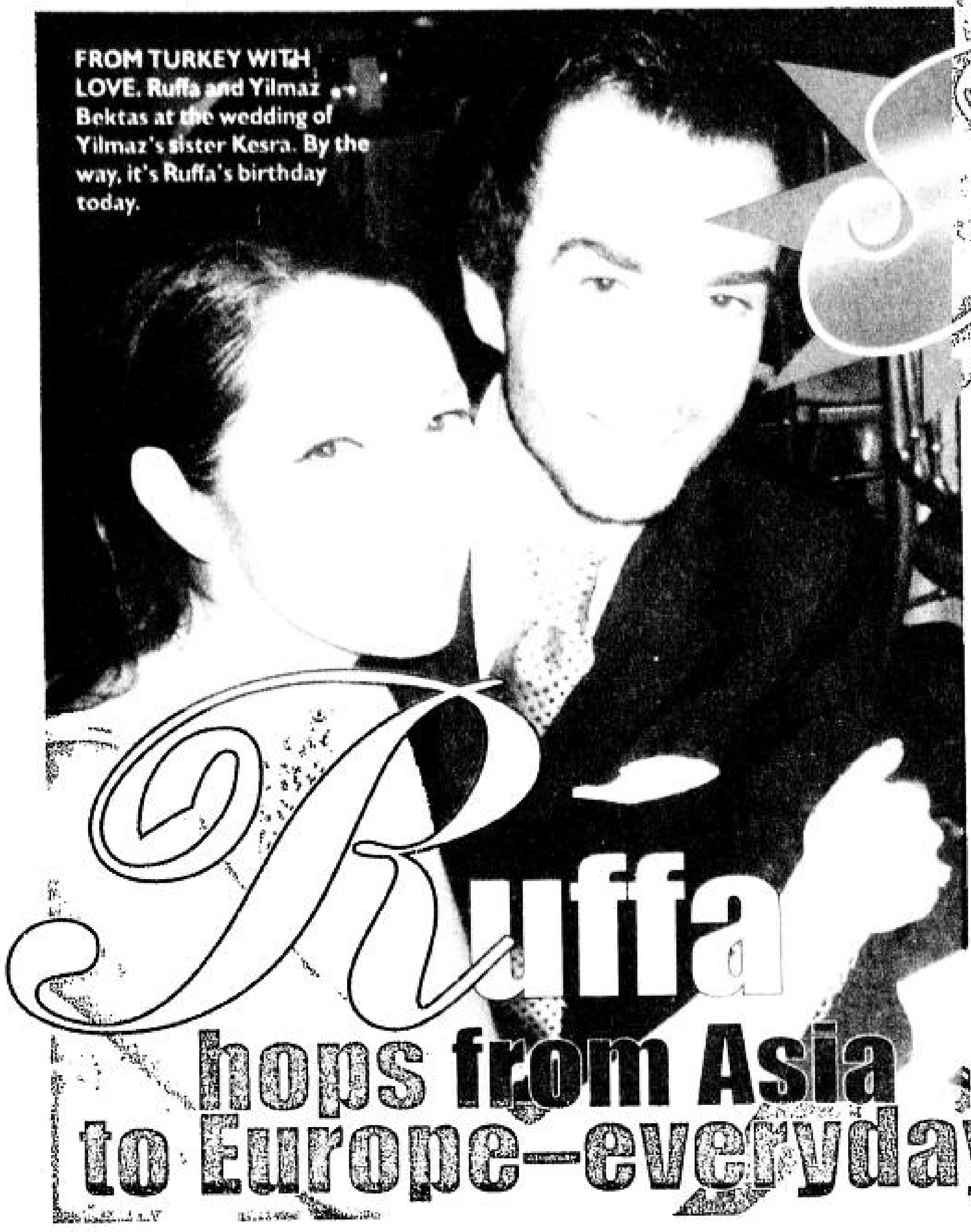

FROM TURKEY WITH LOVE. Ruffa and Yilmaz Bektas at the wedding of Yilmaz's sister Kesra. By the way, it's Ruffa's birthday today.

Ruffa hops from Asia to Europe—everyday!

A BEAUTY queen/actress/young mom, supported by a rich, loving husband gets visited by her family composed of five grown up brothers, her dad and her bling-obsessed mom. Cue movie trailer voice over.

The resulting plot is one week of over-the-top reality that takes tinseltown's most watched family and transports them to exotic Istanbul, complete with bodyguards, posh night clubs and tons and tons of gold. And on some special nights, a shower of cold cash (dollars—not lira, not pesos!) is even involved!

After years of constant invitations from Ruffa Gutierrez-Bektas to visit her in different parts of the world, I finally made my way to Turkey, the land of divas and delights.

Upon arrival at the Istanbul airport, I was met by a bevy of men in dark suits. "Are you still blonde?" Ruffa, in her typical endearing sing-song voice, called me on the phone. Her Fashion TV bodyguards were looking for me. At that time, only one of them could speak English, and I didn't know any Turkish.

Gutierrez brood

Ruffa's brothers Elvis, Rocky, Richard, Raymond and RP (for Richie Paul) were excited because it was their first time to visit Turkey. I instantly became the sixth Gutierrez brother, since they became my Istanbul companions day in and day out.

I told the bodyguards that Richard, Raymond and I were triplets (not Sheryl, Tina and Manilyn *ha*) and that it just so happened that the two of them were identical, and I, the factory defect. They only discovered the truth when they asked me where my mother was, referring to Annabelle Rama! I

RUFFA/E2

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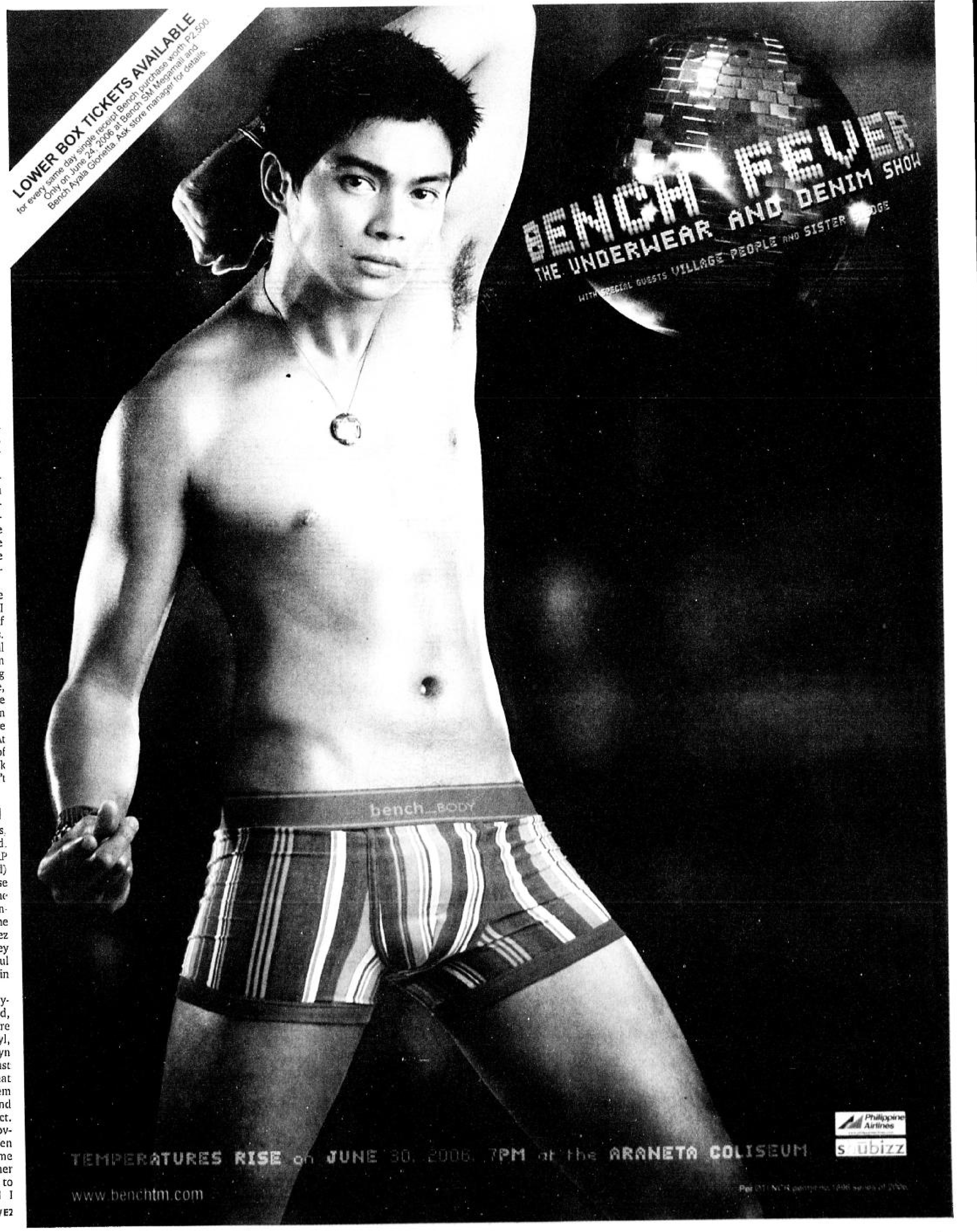

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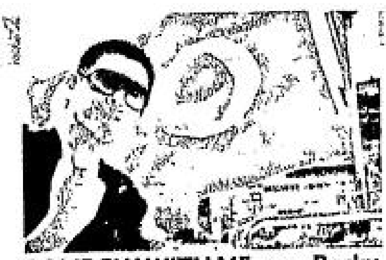
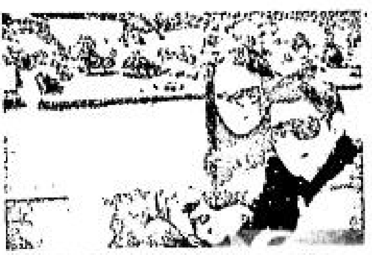
SHADES OF COOL. Richard Gutierrez in Tom Ford eyewear

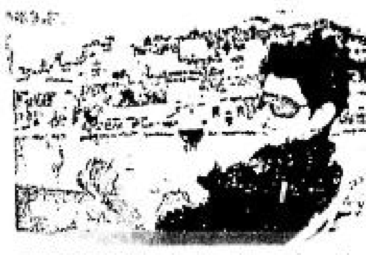


COME FLY WITH ME, says Rocky

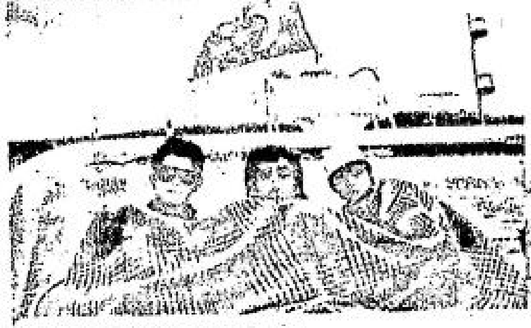
LOVE BOAT. Eddie Gutierrez and Annabelle Rama in honeymode



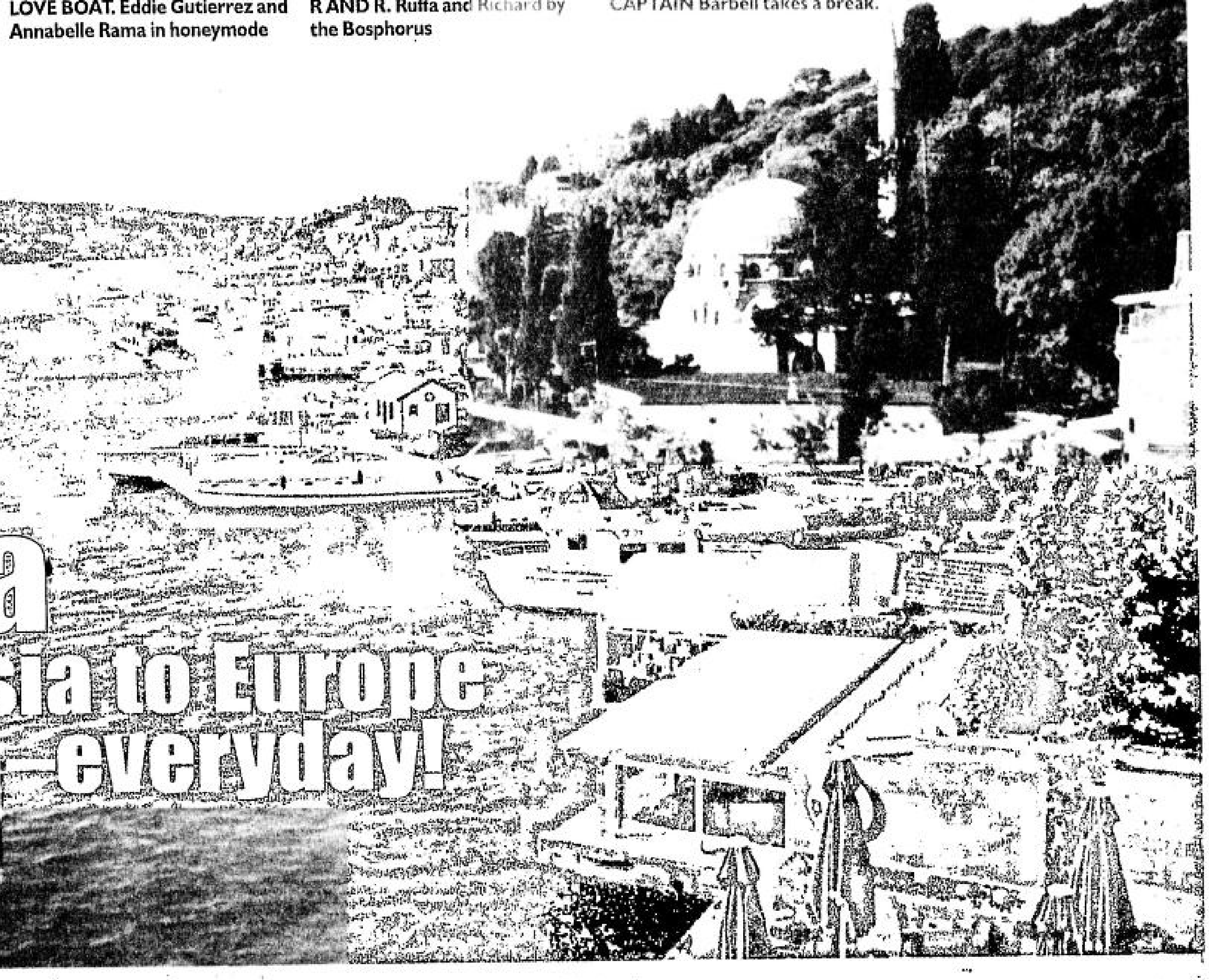
R AND R. Ruffa and Richard by the Bosphorus



CAPTAIN Barbell takes a break.



IT'S GETTIN' cold in here.



Ruffa hops from Asia to Europe everyday!

SNAPSHOT of a princess

VIEW FROM THE TOP. Chard, as photographed by Mond

Tim Yap

From page E1

should go get my Advil.

My first day in Istanbul was spent at the Bektas house, a mansion in the suburbs where Ruffa maintains her queendom in the presence of her family, household help and pets. It was also the bridal shower for Kesra, Ruffa's sis-in-law who was going to tie the knot that weekend. Ruffa, the consummate hostess kept on calling the twins to rush to her place (we stayed at a boutique hotel in Bebek, near the posh party spots in Istanbul) to catch the performance of the belly dancer she had hired for the party.

One soiree after another, I witnessed, in true pageant form, how Ruffa was able to transform and live up to every role she had to take—wife, mother, sister, daughter, hostess, guest relations officer, friend, etc. Many times she was busier than the party hosts themselves, and in family occasions, Yilmaz's kin seem to have grown so attached to her that they all really go to her—kids and adults alike are drawn to her like girls are to diamonds.

Bling it on!

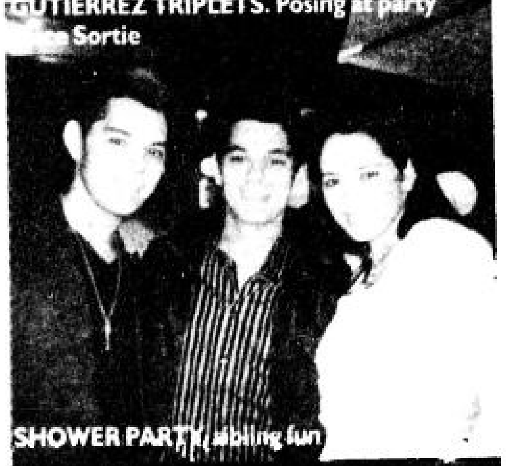
Speaking of this girl who is fond of diamonds, we went Super! shopping at The Grand Bazaar, where I experienced first hand the haggling skills of Mommy Annabelle. I watched with amazement as her kids point out a particular object they fancied and mommy Annabelle would argue and fight with the vendors until she got the item at the price she wanted. And then they became friends. Who can resist *tita* Annabelle?

"She just likes to haggle for the sake of haggling," Eddie Gutierrez explained as we observed Annabelle from the next stall. "She's a double dragon," Yilmaz went wide-eyed as he lovingly described his mom-in-law. I'd say even a triple dragon, as even I felt well taken cared of, and safe, under *tita* Annabelle's wings.

Even in Istanbul, she brought cans and cans of pork n' beans, corned beef and other breakfast de *lata* to make sure her boys have their favorite foods from good 'ol mom. "My boys are all so big now," she would wax sentimen-

RUFFA/ E3

GUTIERREZ TRIPLETS. Posing at party [illegible] Sortie



SHOWER PARTY. [illegible] fun

THE FASHION TV security [illegible] with us 24/7

ALL IN the family at the wedding of Kesra to Baris

KESRA [illegible]

EDDIE AND ANNABELLE'S vast sources of pride

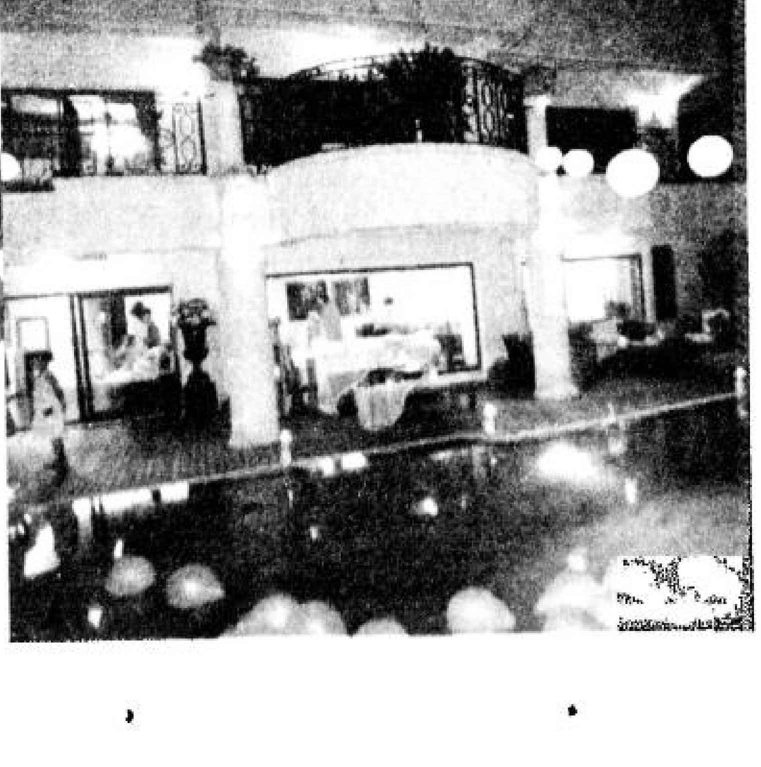
THE OTHER queen in Yilmaz's life, Queenie

AT KESRA'S BRIDAL SHOWER HOSTED BY RUFFA. Held at Yilmaz and Ruffa's residence in Istanbul

LIKE SISTERS. Ruffa and Kesra Bektas

RUFFA'S little angels, Lorin and Venice

SPELL BROTH[illegible] Richard, Rocky, Richie Paul, El[illegible] and Raymond



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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
Super

SUPER! GOES TO ISTANBUL

Ruffa hops from Asia . . .

From page E2

tal in her Visayan-twanged Tagalog, smiling from ear to ear after pinching Elvis' cheek, or after giving Richard a tight embrace.

"Mommy, look at these diamonds!" Ruffa pointed to a super bling piece that can fully cover one's neck. *"Marami na tayo nyan!"* Annabelle blurted out as she headed to the next stall. The next few days would take us all over Istanbul, bonding over traffic (our situation is much better than theirs, would you believe?) and bodyguards.

So real

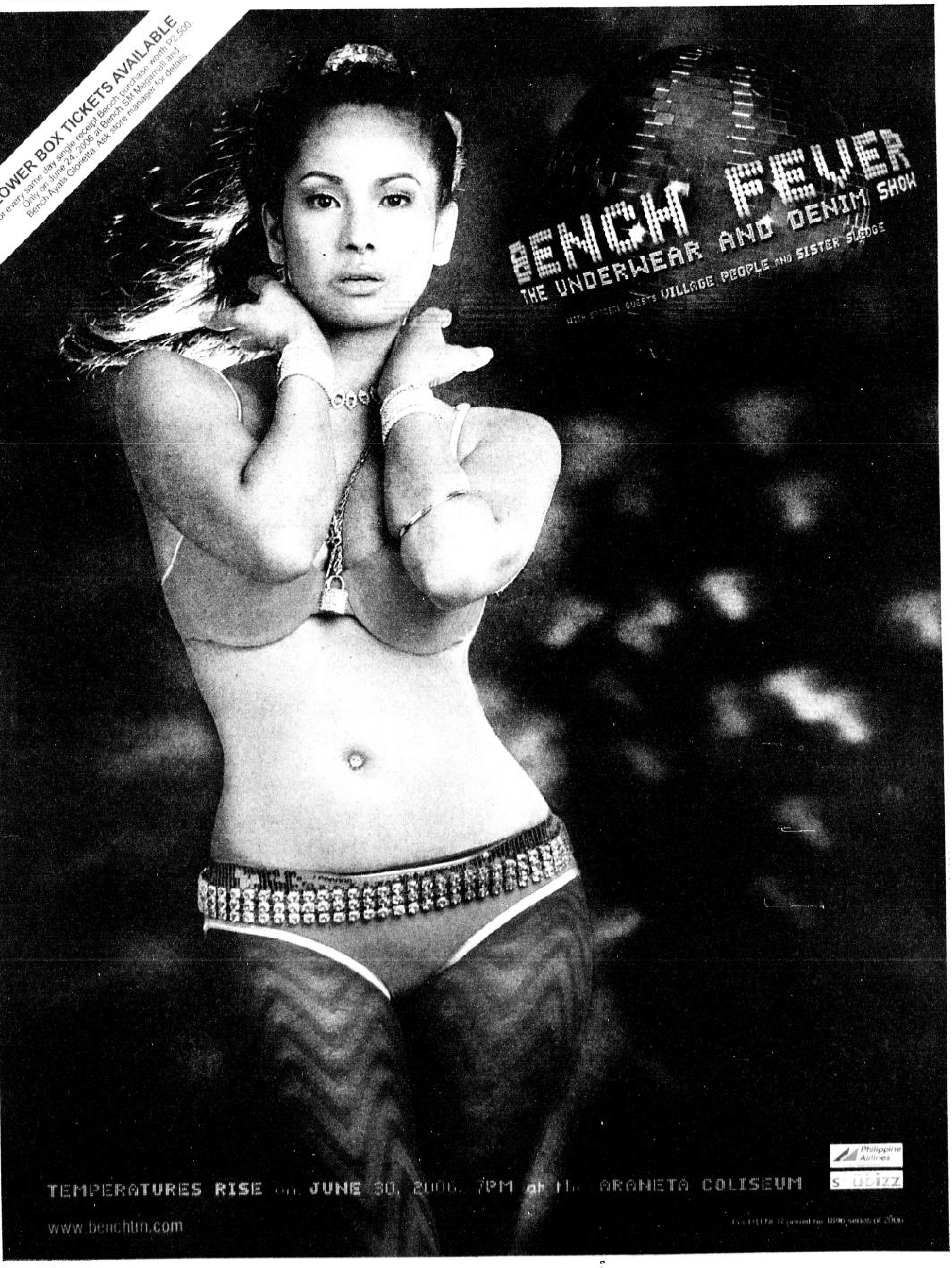
A cruise along the Bosphorus sea took us from Asia to Europe and back. Istanbul is unique in such a way that half of it is located in Asia, and the other half, Europe. Ruffa crosses this line everyday, part of her daily chaffeur-driven ride around town.

Being with Ruffa (who now speaks fluent Turkish, by the way), Yilmaz and the whole Gutierrez brood away from the glare of the Manila spotlight, I noticed first hand how this showbiz family is actually so grounded and so real. With them, what you see is waht you get.

The Gutierrez boys form one big, happy *barkada*—hanging out with them makes you feel like you're hanging out with your high school *barkada*. Elvis and Rocky are experts at impersonation, Raymond and Richie Paul love their music while Richard has this fixation for cars and Ducati bikes and has a great eye for photography. (Check out his photos within this Super! spread.)

Seeing dad Eddie's quiet demeanor can remind you of your own cool dad. Being with Annabelle makes you feel like you're with your own quirky mom who smothers you with her love.

Being with Yilmaz, you sense a man truly in love with his wife and happy with his kids, and being with Ruffa… it's like being with your sister, if your sister was a princess.



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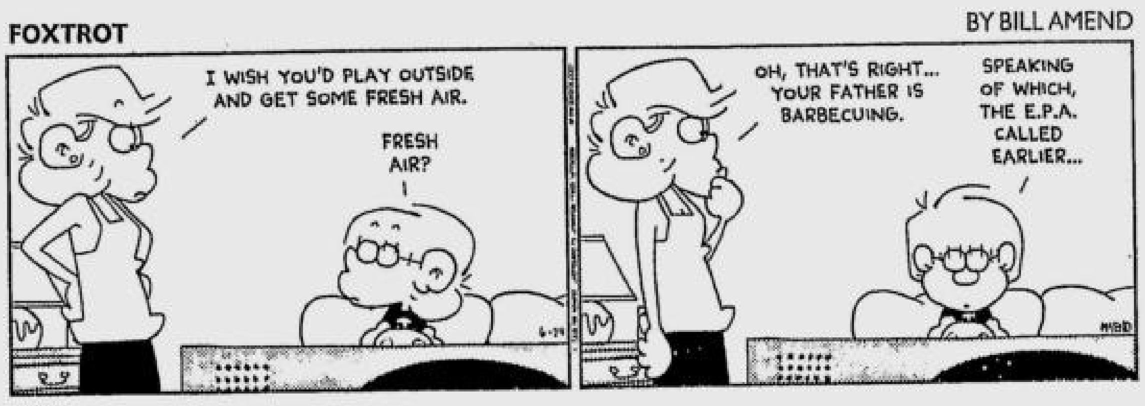
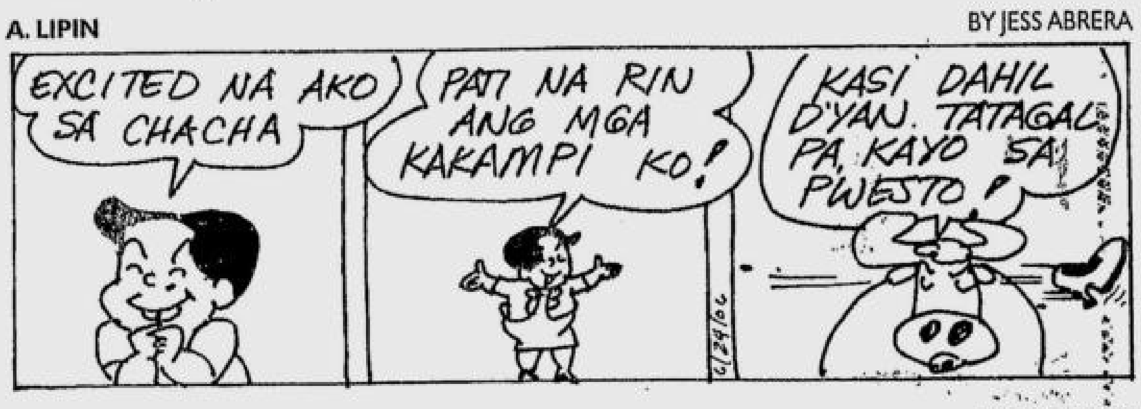
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


I WISH YOU'D PLAY OUTSIDE AND GET SOME FRESH AIR.
FRESH AIR?
OH, THAT'S RIGHT... YOUR FATHER IS BARBECUING.
SPEAKING OF WHICH, THE E.P.A. CALLED EARLIER...

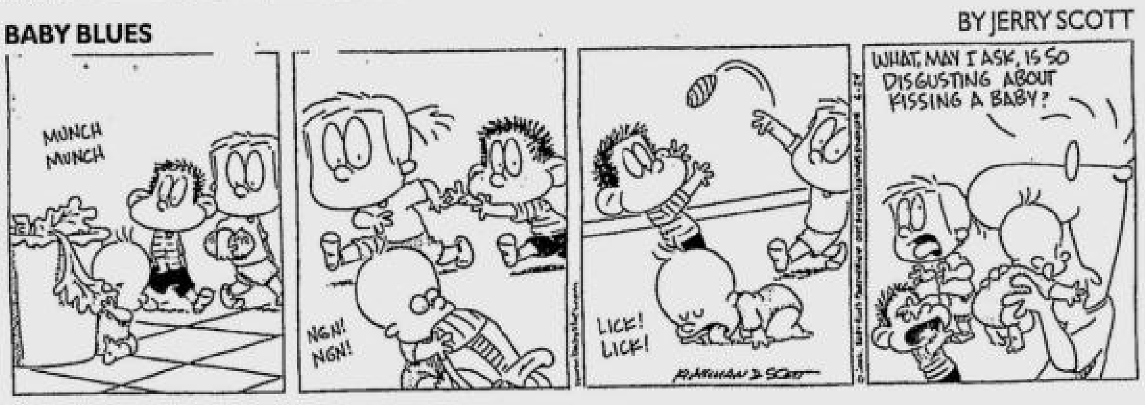
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


EXCITED NA AKO SA CHACHA
PATI NA RIN ANG MGA KAKAMPI KO!
KASI DAHIL D'YAN, TATAGAL PA KAYO SA PWESTO!
6/24/06

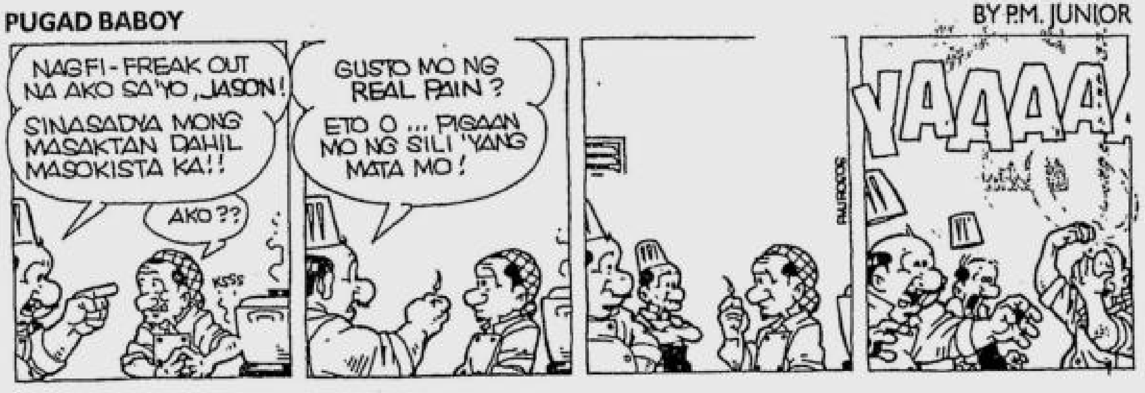
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


MUNCH MUNCH
NGN! NGN!
LICK! LICK!
WHAT, MAY I ASK, IS SO DISGUSTING ABOUT KISSING A BABY?

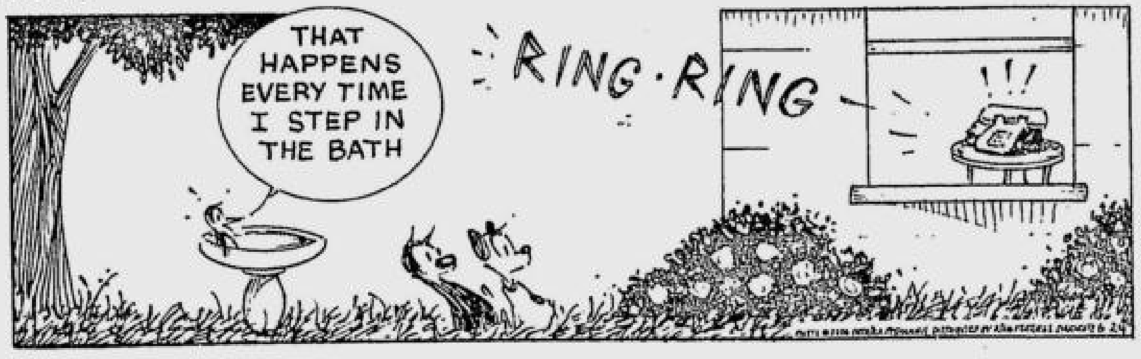
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


NAGFI-FREAK OUT NA AKO SA'YO, JASON!
SINASADYA MONG MASAKTAN DAHIL MASOKISTA KA!!
AKO??
KSSS
GUSTO MO NG REAL PAIN?
ETO O ... PIGAAN MO NG SILI 'YANG MATA MO!
YAAAA

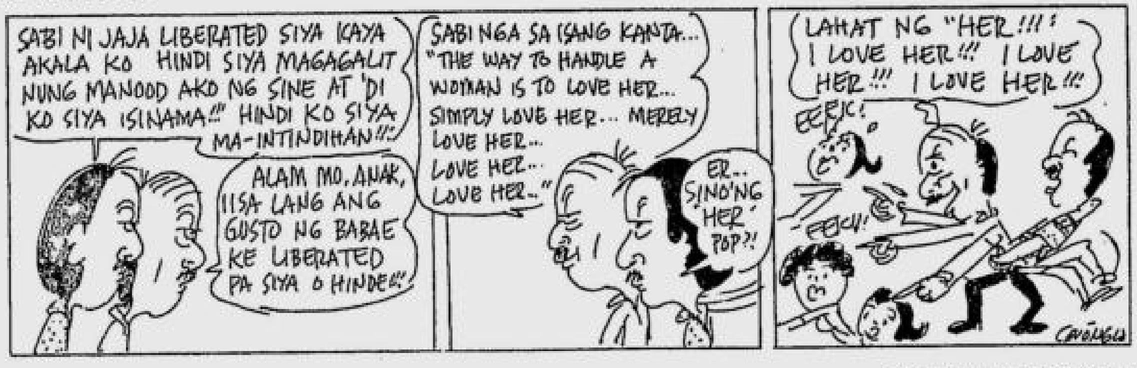
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


THAT HAPPENS EVERY TIME I STEP IN THE BATH
RING · RING

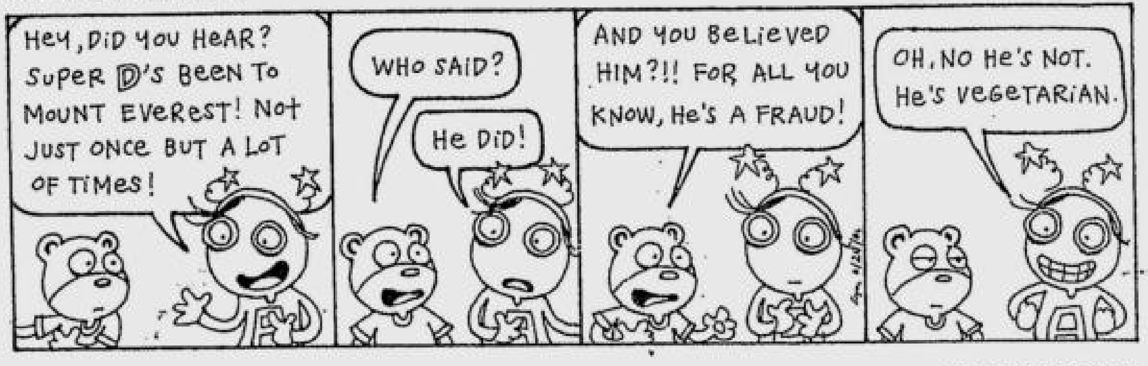
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


SABI NI JAJA LIBERATED SIYA KAYA AKALA KO HINDI SIYA MAGAGALIT NUNG MANOOD AKO NG SINE AT 'DI KO SIYA ISINAMA!!" HINDI KO SIYA MA-INTINDIHAN!!
ALAM MO, ANAK, IISA LANG ANG GUSTO NG BABAE KE LIBERATED PA SIYA O HINDE!!
SABI NGA SA ISANG KANTA... "THE WAY TO HANDLE A WOMAN IS TO LOVE HER... SIMPLY LOVE HER... MERELY LOVE HER... LOVE HER... LOVE HER..."
ER... SINO'NG 'HER' POP?!
LAHAT NG "HER!!!" I LOVE HER!!! I LOVE HER!!! I LOVE HER!!!
EERK!
FECK!
CHIONGLO

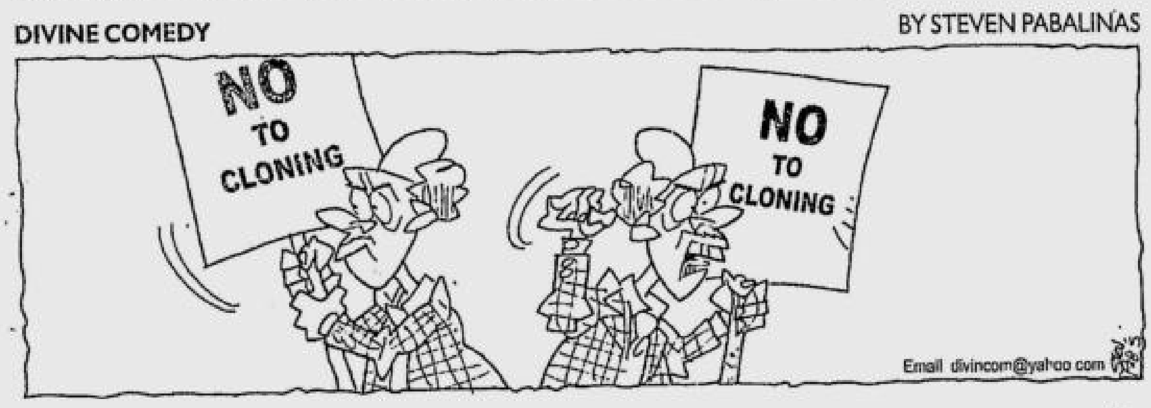
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


Hey, Did you HeAR? SuPeR D's Been To MOUNT EVEREST! Not JUST ONCE BUT A LOT OF TiMeS!
WHO SAID?
He DiD!
AND YOU BeLieved HIM?!! FOR ALL YOU KNOW, He's A FRAUD!
OH, NO He's NOT. He's VeGeTARiAN.

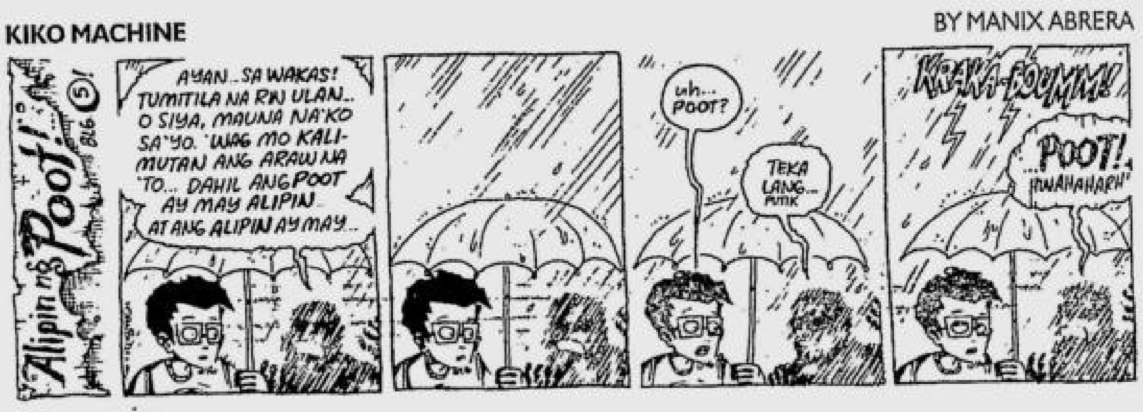
DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


NO TO CLONING
NO TO CLONING
Email divincom@yahoo.com

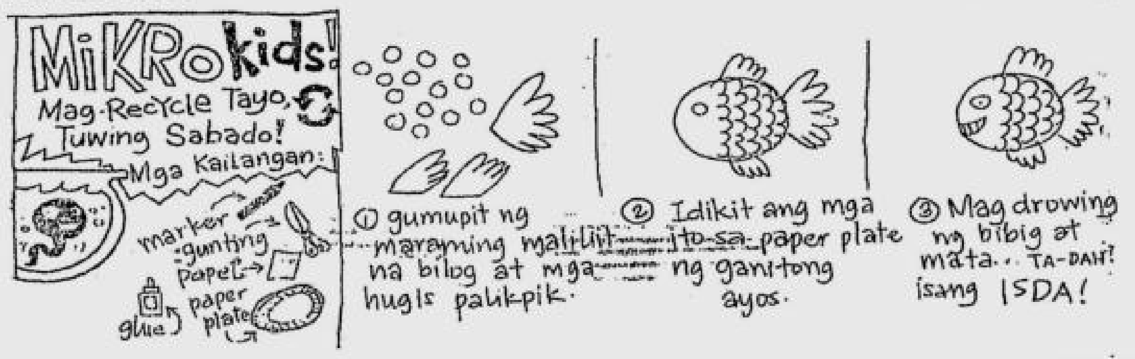
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


Alipin ng Poot!! BIG 5
AYAN... SA WAKAS! TUMITILA NA RIN ULAN... O SIYA, MAUNA NA'KO SA'YO. 'WAG MO KALIMUTAN ANG ARAW NA 'TO... DAHIL ANG POOT AY MAY ALIPIN AT ANG ALIPIN AY MAY...
uh... POOT?
TEKA LANG... PUTIK
KRAKA-BOOMM!
POOT! ...HWAHAHAH!

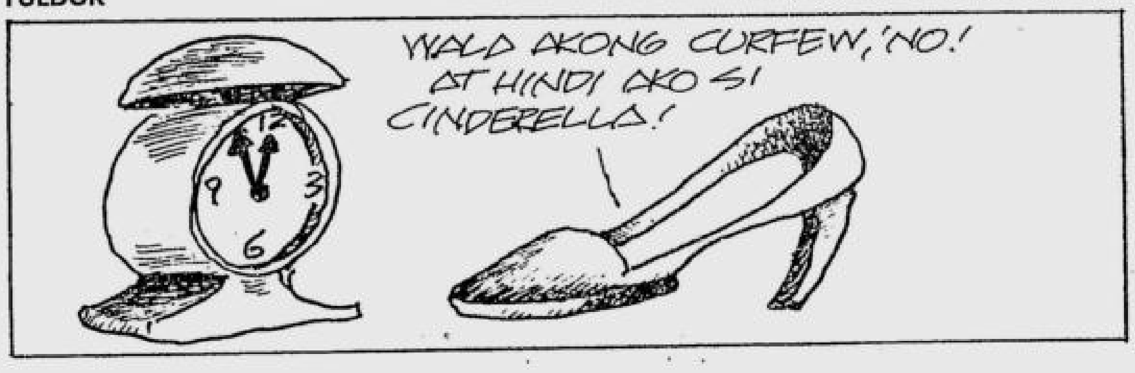
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


MiKRoKids!
Mag-Recycle Tayo, Tuwing Sabado!
Mga Kailangan:
marker
gunting
papel
glue
paper plate
① gumupit ng maraming maliliit na bilog at mga hugis palikpik.
② Idikit ang mga ito sa paper plate ng ganitong ayos.
③ Mag drowing ng bibig at mata... TA-DAH! isang ISDA!

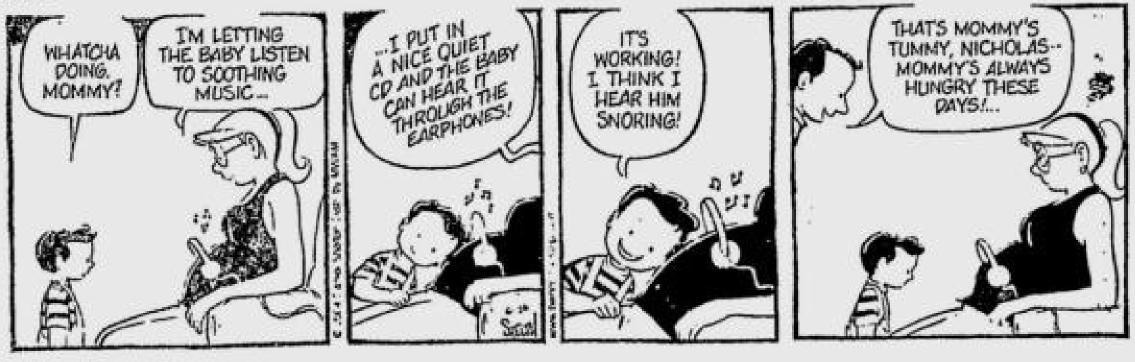
TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING

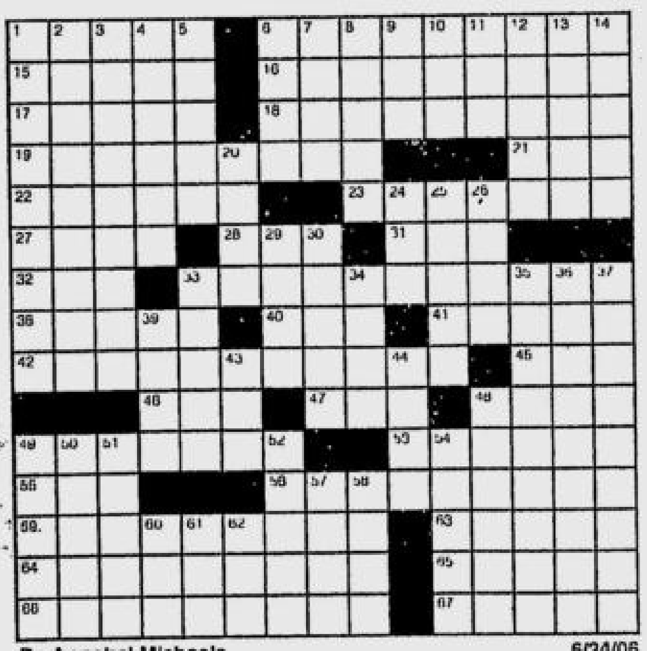

WALA AKONG CURFEW, 'NO! AT HINDI AKO SI CINDERELLA!

BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


WHATCHA DOING, MOMMY?
I'M LETTING THE BABY LISTEN TO SOOTHING MUSIC...
...I PUT IN A NICE QUIET CD AND THE BABY CAN HEAR IT THROUGH THE EARPHONES!
IT'S WORKING! I THINK I HEAR HIM SNORING!
THAT'S MOMMY'S TUMMY, NICHOLAS... MOMMY'S ALWAYS HUNGRY THESE DAYS!...

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Annabel Michaels
Williamsburg, VA

6/24/06

ACROSS
1 Poison ivy's cousin
6 Rich in detail
15 "__ Arden"
16 Photographer
17 Draw out
18 Dishes
19 Permanent AWOL's
21 Golfer Watson
22 Wave tops
23 Social tact
27 Contingencies: abbr.
28 Trajectory
31 Slugger's stat
32 Knight's honorific
33 Crisis area
38 Related maternally
40 Andalucian gold
41 Take off
42 Intervals
45 Pt. of a poem
46 60-minute units
47 Japanese volcano
48 Some evergreens
49 Bridal wreath and meadowsweet
53 1966 U.S. Open tennis champion
55 Austral. state
56 Irishman
59 Functioning effectively
63 Worship
64 United in a twosome
65 Chick and Fritz
66 Walter Payton's nickname
67 Dunderheads

DOWN
1 Arils
2 Emphasize
3 Agatha Christie play, with "The"
4 Way in
5 Fine-grained silica
6 Behold, to Caesar
7 Bolger and Haley's co-star
8 Off target
9 Cross or Affleck
10 __ pro nobis
11 Bitingly cold
12 Classic violin
13 Reader's card
14 Foe
20 Romanov ruler
24 Internet address letters
25 Tasman and Muzorewa
26 Clamping tool
29 Underground growth
30 Catholic governing body
33 __ Haute, IN
34 Ghostly greetings
35 Park shelters
36 Too big
37 Brevity
39 Himalayan goat
43 Congressman Hutchinson
44 Rocket top
48 Two "On Golden Pond" stars
49 Halts
50 Yellow-fleshed fruit
51 Val d'__, Fr.
52 Old English county
54 Refrain syllables
57 Folk singer Burl
58 Cots and cradles
60 66, e.g.
61 Aardvark's snack
62 Sawbuck

Friday's Puzzle Solved

S	T	R	A	W	■	P	E	S	C	I	■	G	O	D
E	R	I	C	H	■	L	O	C	A	L	■	O	H	O
W	I	S	E	A	S	A	N	O	W	L	■	W	I	N
E	K	E	■	T	R	Y	■	T	S	E	L	I	O	T
R	E	S	T	A	T	E	S	■	G	O	T	■	■	■
■	■	■	S	M	A	R	T	A	S	A	W	H	I	P
A	D	L	A	I	■	■	E	V	I	L	■	O	D	A
L	A	I	R	■	M	Y	L	A	R	■	A	U	E	R
A	S	S	■	A	B	E	L	■	■	A	N	T	E	S
S	H	A	R	P	A	S	A	T	A	C	K	■	■	■
■	■	■	B	A	P	■	R	A	R	A	A	V	I	S
P	R	O	P	O	S	E	■	B	A	D	■	E	N	A
I	O	N	■	I	N	T	E	L	L	I	G	E	N	T
T	O	E	■	N	O	T	R	E	■	A	E	R	I	E
A	F	T	■	T	B	A	R	S	■	N	O	S	E	D

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6/24/06

HOROSCOPE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're easygoing, reserved and traditional. You like harmony in your surroundings; perhaps this is why people like to be around you. You have excellent powers of concentration and a wonderful imagination. You're a devoted parent. (Family matters to you.) After the age of 28, you become more daring for the rest of your life! This year highlights your closest relationships.

Birthdate of: Sherry Stringfield, actress; Michele Lee, actress; Joe Penny, actor.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): At this stage in your life, you want to know what you really want to be when you grow up. You want to sing your song! (This is something you're thinking about a lot.)

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): In order to feel secure, you need to establish a solid anchor in your life. You want to feel good about where you live. Continue with your efforts to renovate, redecorate or change residences.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Many of you are going to change residences, jobs or both this year. (Although, someone of you have already done so.) It's just time to move.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): You're trying to figure out better ways of earning money. (And you can do it.) In fact, you're thinking a lot about your whole basic values system.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): You're restructuring your life. You're letting go of things in order to enter a new world. Some of you are even changing your appearance and your wardrobe. (Wow!)

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): This is definitely a time to downsize. Let go of the dead wood in your life. This includes people, places, jobs and possessions.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): You worked to make a name for yourself; now you have to figure out how to become a member of the tribe. This involves more than just you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Most of you clearly see now what is working and what is not working at this point in your life. This is empowering. It helps you know what you have to do next.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): This is a time of preparation for you. You can sense that you're going on to bigger and better things in the next few years. And you're right—you are!

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Some of you are getting less support from a partner or another source. This scarcer time is finite. It will be over in 12 to 18 months.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Partnerships and serious relationships have been tough in the past year; many of them have ended. This is because you are growing in a new direction.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Continue to work hard to build upon your dreams. Even though you feel overwhelmed at times, all this work will bring you your future rewards.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

		6			3			9
	2			5			8	
		1			8			6
		4			5			1
	8			9			4	
		5			2			8
		2			6			3
	5			3			9	
		8			9			2

Difficulty Level ★★★★

6/24

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HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

2	1	9	8	7	5	4	6	3
6	8	5	1	3	4	7	2	9
7	3	4	2	9	6	1	8	5
4	6	3	9	5	8	2	7	1
5	7	8	3	1	2	9	4	6
1	9	2	4	6	7	5	3	8
8	5	7	6	4	1	3	9	2
3	2	1	7	8	9	6	5	4
9	4	6	5	2	3	8	1	7

Difficulty Level ★★★★

PARTY FOR A CAUSE

SCENES from the Playboy Mansion party at Indochine

When playing becomes serious fun

By Katrina A. Holigores

I DON'T BELIEVE THAT any straight girl (who doesn't have double D chest proportions) would be excited to attend an event that has "Playboy Mansion" as a theme. But, I kept trying to convince myself this was for work.

Before anyone even bothers to speculate if I possess aforementioned mammalian attributes let me clarify that work meant being head of content for Fashion TV Philippines and that we were invited to cover an event. Indochine Restaurant, located on Orchard Road in Singapore was about to stage a charity dinner plus fashion show with designer Farah Angsana and all proceeds were going to the Action for Aids Charity. Two of my colleagues and I set off for the land of the "las" with equipment and no real expectations in tow. I have always wondered what kind of gimmicks one was willing to throw or get into in the name of "charity." I guess when times get hard, getting charity is even harder.

Efficient energy

Singapore was as expected bustling with the most efficient energy known to man. Everything there just works and everyone just seems to be so reliable and honest. It seemed, with everything so streamlined and well, disciplined, that an event sounding in nature supporting a rather controversial subject matter could be pulled off with aplomb. Half-asleep and fueled by pure adrenaline (thanks to chocolate), we set off for the venue to give a visual ocular.

Beautiful models

Christina Mitropoulou, our FTV Singapore sister, had already been given a heads up of what to do when met with three visitors from the Philippines—feed them and feed them fast! Over roast duck with rice at a local kopitiam, we discussed the schedule and parameters for the evening ahead. Again looking over what was to be expected in the name of charity, beautiful models in beautiful gowns, high society guests, celebrities, a five-course dinner, and er, an underdressed code. I felt rather uncomfortable and I couldn't figure out why. Maybe I was still rather old-fashioned in this modern day. Although I thought charities would be more subdued "with clothes" affairs, I was prepared to stay professional and cover the event regardless of my impressions and expectations.

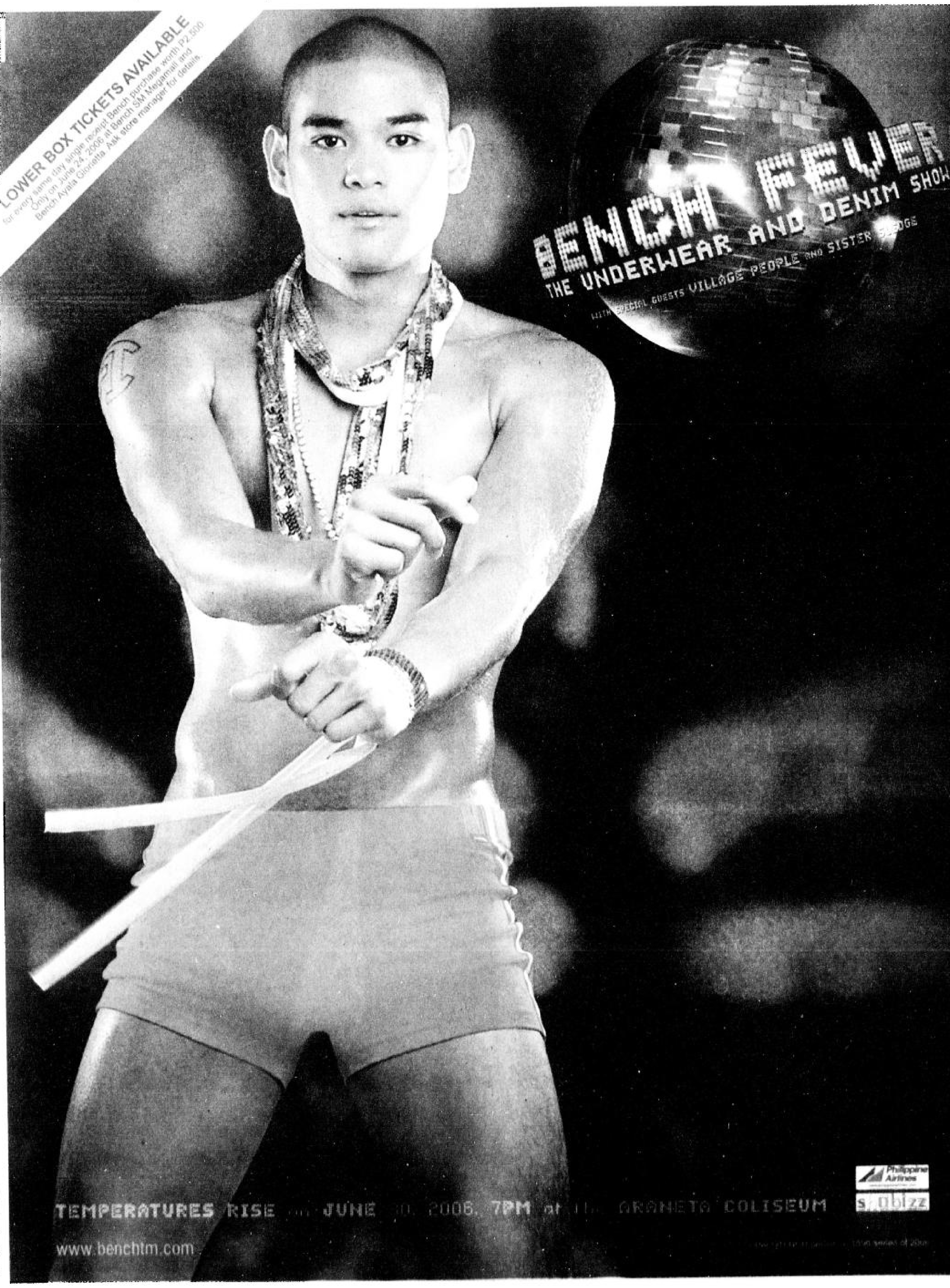
What started out as work though turned out to be a lot quite a fun experience. First of all, the venue itself was very unique in its appearance, formal-looking settings, chandeliers in the middle of very long tables gave it an almost kitschy feel, I mean, the whole club was beginning to imbibe a rather S&M feel. This was coupled by the red carpet walk where guests either clad in Farah Angsana's wares or … underwear wares were welcomed by half-naked men in masks. I guess for the guests (and the FTV Crew) the whole setting was taken in a tongue-in-cheek manner, even some of the more scantily clad of the guests were not taking themselves and their body parts too seriously. From pre-event, during dinner, through the fashion show and even at the after party it became more and more evident that everyone involved was having a gleefully good time. Playmates, playboys and play wannabes were scattered all over the club and restaurant, but there was a strict "no photo" clause on many of the guests that was (maybe cause it was Singapore) readily and seriously abided. (Brangelina and baby would have been better off in Indochine rather than Namibia).

Highly amusing

Although the overall scene was highly amusing, what was most enjoyable for me was bumping into an old friend, Mike Wiluan (who I had not seen in over 10 years) and making new friends amidst the noise and the nakedness. Some of the guests got pretty raunchy towards the end of the night but FTV kept its promise and we kept ours cameras off, although our eyes were pretty much popping out of our heads. Champagne flowed, dancing was all night and several awards were given out that night, from a $3,000 gown from Farah to several Valentino leather bags. People took their partying very seriously and a new definition of the word "Playmate" emerged that very night. But still, I thought I would be put off by all the debauchery around me and was pleasantly surprised that despite still having all my clothes on I was still very much welcomed into the fray.

Rumor has it that the event raised double of what was estimated for Action for Aids and the colorful condom giveaways disappeared way before the clothes on the guests did.

I don't think I could have planned out something more successful and I humbly whip my rather self-righteous non-bunny tailed behind into submission. Whatever works for charitable causes works for me. In these unpredictable times, charity has to get creative. So maybe next time I won't scoff at the idea of being a Playmate for a good cause.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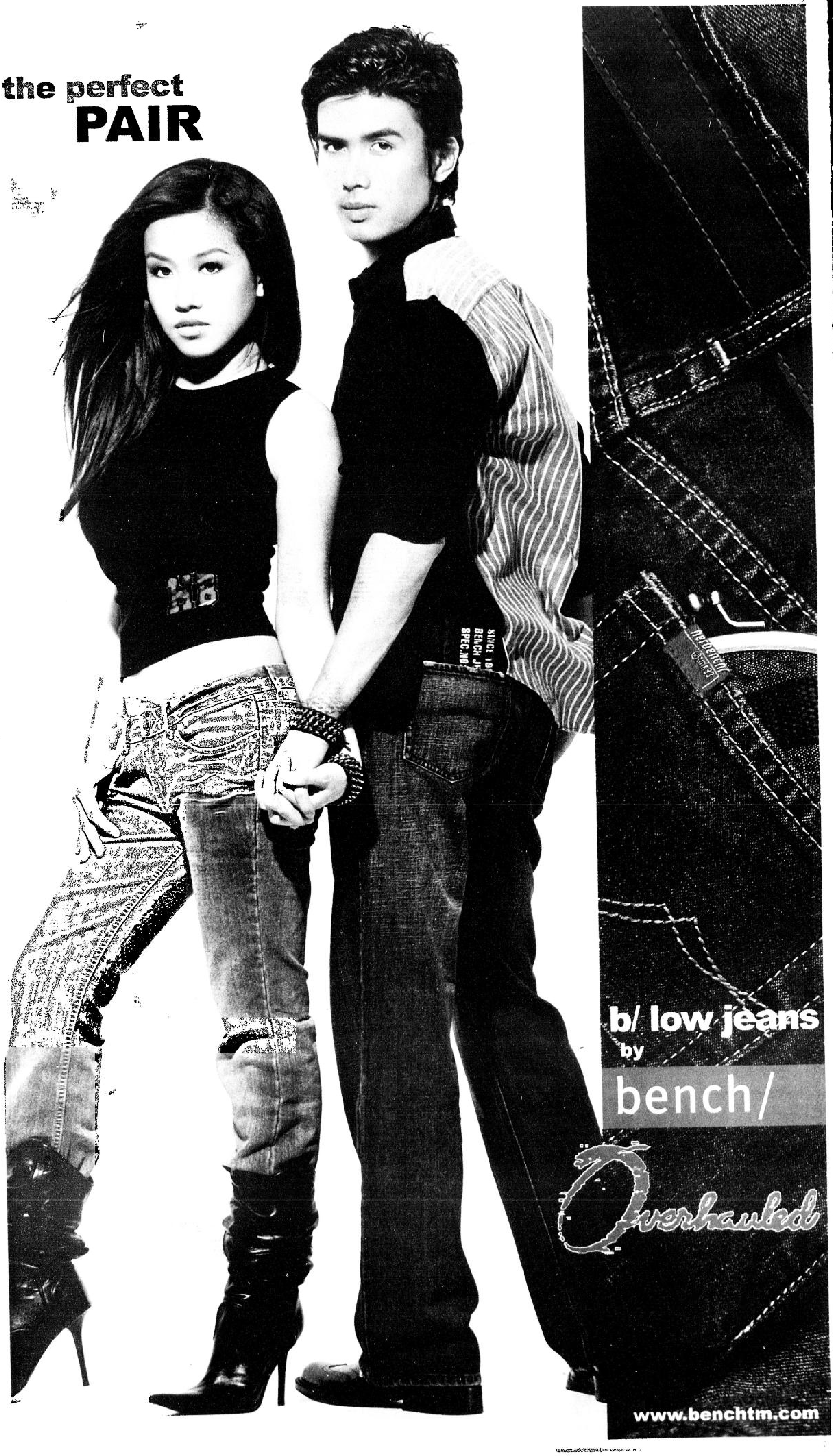
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pop culture entertainment recreation

Funky sneakers and designer tea parties in the land of retail therapy

This is a Hong Kong shopping adventure without a lot of shopping

Text and photos by Pam Pastor

HONG KONG IS THE cure for the jaded shopper's soul. Just when you think you know its ins and outs, the land of retail therapy reaches into its vault and hurls surprises along your way.

This I discovered during a recent big family trip to Hong Kong, courtesy of my generous grandfather. There were 17 of us—which is pretty crazy. While they invaded Disneyland, the Hong Kong Tourism Board swept me away on the Airport Express train and introduced me

FUNKY/ F2

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TUNNEL
LOUIS VUITTON
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CELINE
CELINE

Funky sneakers and designer tea parties in the land of retail therapy

From page F1

to a magical world where funky sneakers float by on conveyor belts under see-through floors, where rich ladies go for designer tea parties, where queues of people ready to splurge on fashion go around the block and where tour guides have an affinity for all things yellow.

And I thought I knew shopping like I know the colors of my nail polish collection.

But my shopping adventure actually started the day before Denny, my tour guide, fetched me from my hotel. While the kids went to Toys R Us and the adults returned to their rooms to rest, I took the bus to Tung Chung and then a long MTR ride which had me switching trains. I had a mission—to pick up two pairs of Japanese-designed Chiso Havaianas that Pedder Red was holding for me. That trip was almost uneventful—except that on the way back, I got on the wrong train because I didn't realize that Chai Wan and Wan Chai were two different places. That was fun.

The next day was even more fun—rife with eye candy, surprises, good food, train rides, long walks and even suspense.

The Big Brands

Our first few stops were Meccas of luxury shopping at Central and Causeway Bay. Denny told me about a funny trend in Hong Kong now—big brand shops have little coffee shops and a lot of rich ladies hang out there for tea. Designer tea parties, that's what I'd like to call them. We saw Joyce, Alexandra House, Giorgio Armani, Louis Vuitton, Gucci and Harvey Nichols where Denny got attached to a bright yellow wallet.

It was the first of the numerous bright yellow things that lit up that day.

I didn't think I would find anything of interest in those stores—after all, I am an *ukay* girl and a big bargain hunter. Luxury shopping and my bank account don't mix. That is, until we went to the The Landmark and we stopped by the Celine boutique and I saw the limited edition Celine havaianas.

Not ready to splurge that early in the morning, I asked Denny, "Will we still see a Celine boutique after we go to Harbour City?"

He said, "Let me put it this way—we will be seeing Celine boutiques before, during and after we go to Harbour City."

Ah, Hong Kong. You've got to love it.

Queue, r, s, t, u, v

One thing I've noticed about Hong Kong is you don't know where one shopping building ends and another starts. Denny said that there's really a conscious effort to connect malls and buildings for the convenience of the people, so they don't have to walk outside if it's raining or if the sun is too hot. It didn't matter if the buildings were owned by different people, they cooperated to make things better for consumers. I thought that was a remarkable thing.

Denny was very excited about our next stop. But when we reached A Bathing Ape, the door was closed and there was a long line of people outside. Young people, old people, funky-looking people, serious-looking people. They were all waiting to go inside Bathing Ape.

"Why?" I asked Denny. He didn't know either. There must be a huge sale going on, I thought. But I couldn't believe people would line up that early for a sale—it was only 10 in the morning.

Deciding to go back when the queue was gone, we went to our next stop. Tulip (16 On Lan Street), which looks like a big girl's dollhouse, sells floaty dresses, quirky clothes, vintage accessories and shabby chic pieces from Europe. The place felt magical—it was perfect for a photo shoot.

On your marks, get set, swipe

Yes, it's that time of the year again. The Hong Kong Tourism board kicks off the 2006 Hong Kong Shopping Festival today. The frenzy will last until the end of August. Tied in with 2006 Discover Hong Kong Year, this year's shopping fest promises to be even bigger, with over 7,500 merchant outlets promising to participate in the festivities. The fun also includes the Hong Kong Shopper of the Year contest (now with 20 participating teams from different countries) and the Grand Lucky Draw which would give away 113 prizes worth HK$2.7 million. The grand prize is an Audemars Piguet Jules Audemars watch valued at HK$590,000.

For more information, visit www.discoverhongkong.com.

Break for lunch

Island Beverly (No. 1 Great George Street, Causeway Bay, Hong Kong) was our next stop. Strangely, a lot of them were still closed even if it was noon. As we went around the building, Denny said there was an interesting story behind the stores and he promised to share it with me during lunch.

Over deep-fried oysters, barbecued pork buns, Vietnamese-style shrimp rice rolls, siao long bun, pan-fried scallop cakes and shrimp dumplings at Superstar Seafood restaurant, Denny told me about the rise of youth malls in Hong Kong.

"We have a lot of young people who studied design. They don't want to work in an office and they think they know what young people want so many of them put up their own stores," he said. The stores are tiny—most of them just 30 to 40 square feet—but they make the most out of the space. The stores can be found in Island Beverly and in another building called Rise, which we would see later in the day.

The stores didn't become popular overnight but word spread, thanks to assistants who shopped there and then passed on the good news to the celebrities they work for.

Denny said that the store hours were strange because they depended on the owners' body clocks. "Young people go to parties at night and they wake up late. That's why the stores open late too."

What a fun way to make a living.

Late-night shopping

Thanks to APM, one of Hong Kong's newer shopping malls, I can proudly say that I rode all the lines of the MTR during my trip.

Located in the center of Kwun Tong, APM (Millennium City 5, 418 Kwun Tong Road, Kowloon) has been called the "pioneer of late-night shopping." I wonder what the vendors of the Ladies Market have to say about that.

Offering floor after floor of interesting stores, Kwun Tong stays open until about 2 a.m. And you'll probably need to stay until then to explore every little find in its numerous corners. One memorable store was MUJI (which literally means "no brand"), a Japanese-owned store that sells good quality items with no brand names. People were going crazy over their notebooks and gel pens. And yeah, I morphed into one of them.

There was a store called Princess, which sold only pink, furry and girly things and a store called 2% that featured a lot of fun collectibles including Astroboy and On Dog and Friends items. Other interesting stores include D-mop and extravaganza.

"Happy Everyday," that's the tagline of APM. And why shouldn't shoppers be?

Mickey everywhere

I may have skipped Disneyland but Mickey still managed to find me. Cool store I.T. offered mouse merchandise with an extra dose of fashion.

Cantonyama at Tsim Sha Tsui (80 Canton Road) was another interesting stop with many stories packed with fashion pieces and knick knacks.

On our way to Rise Commercial Centre, we passed by another Louis Vuitton store and saw another long queue. It was both amusing and intriguing to see people so hell-bent on fashion that they'd line up for a long time under the heat of the sun to get close to expensive bags.

Rise (5-11 Granville Circuit, Tsim Sha Tsui) turned out to be awesome, even a little freaky. It was as if they searched the deepest corners of my heart for clothes I've dreamt of and put them together in one crazy building. Big dramatic tops, flowy blouses, rockin' shoes—I felt like I was in Willy Wonka's factory, if he made clothes instead of cavity-makers.

A Bathing Ape, finally

We finally made it inside A Bathing Ape. It did not disappoint. I finally remembered why the brand seemed so familiar—I had read about it in Time magazine. A Bathing Ape is a popular brand in Japan that has been called "the gold standard in cool." The store was different alright, good different—the patterned floors, racks of funky shelves, bright lights, shelves and shelves of really colorful shoes and sneakers on conveyor belts moving beneath our feet.

Denny asked the guy at the door why there was a queue earlier. There was no big sale, oh no. People were lining up because new stocks had arrived. Now that's a real passion for fashion.

A mad sprint

The shopping tour ended with a mad sprint from Kowloon to Hong Kong side because there was only one pair of Celine Havaianas left in my size and it was at Central, at the first Celine boutique we visited.

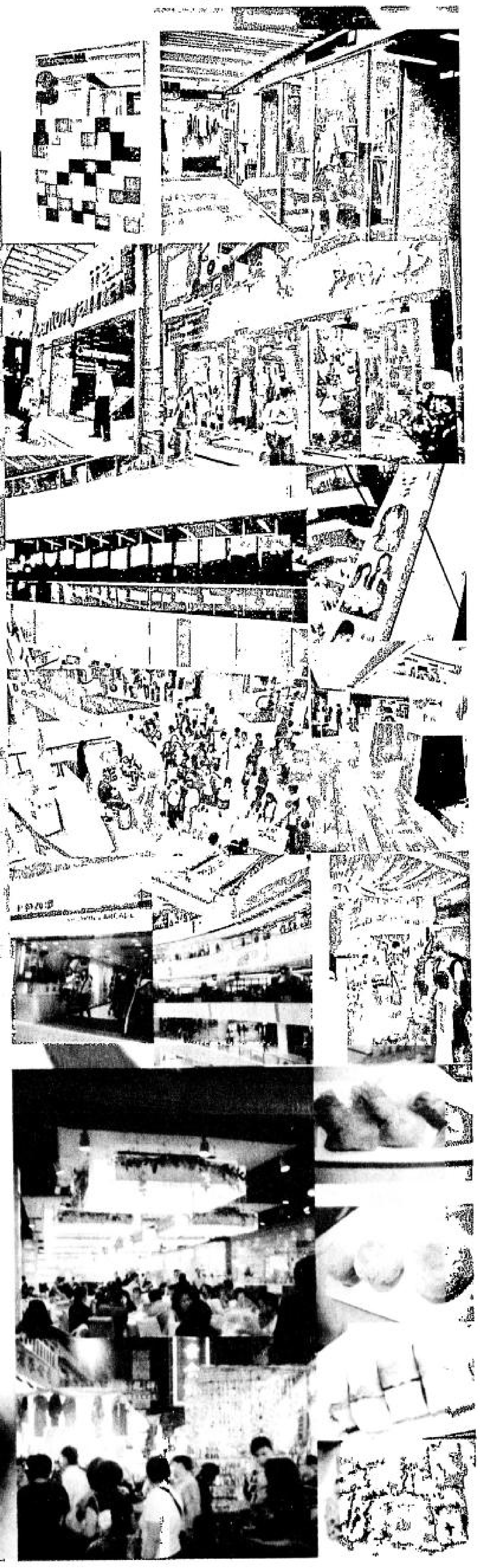
My feet were already killing me by that time and my heart pounded as we walked the long walk to the station. What if the last pair was gone? I thought. When it started to rain, Denny decided to have a little fun, "Now someone will get her feet wet and she'll think, I should buy new sandals. She'd walk into the store and buy the last pair of 37/38 Celine sandals..."

But no, I beat the other (imaginary) rain-soaked Havaianas-chasing women. The saleswomen smiled in amusement when they saw me. It was as if they knew I would rush back. I made it, with just a few minutes to spare before closing time.

Soon, our legs and feet were able to rest as we dined on roast goose, roast pork, beef with oyster sauce and deep-fried seaweed and shrimp paste roll at Yung Kee Restaurant. We ended the night with ice cream cones from Ben and Jerry's.

But it was only day two of our Hong Kong trip. I spent the next three days with my family eating and raiding the usual haunts—Lane Crawford, Toys R Us, HMV, Sasa, Causeway Bay, Tsim Sha Tsui, Ladies Market, Sham Shui Po.

Whether your thrill lies in luxury shopping or bargain-hunting, shopping in Hong Kong is always an adventure. It doesn't matter who you're with either. And whether you siphon your bank account dry or manage to control your spending, you will always come home loaded with stories to tell.



Fast, furious and stylin'

FOR TWO INCREDIBLE DAYS AND nights, a record number of participants and attendees turned the World Trade Center in Roxas Boulevard into a pit stop like no other. Styling Extreme 2006 lived up to its billing as the biggest and most prestigious convergence of car enthusiasts in the country.

Present were Heart Evangelista, Marc Nelson, Maritoni Fernandez, Rico Robles, Raymond Gutierrez, Bubbles Paraiso, Bianca Valerio, Devaughn, Brent Javier, Rich Herrera, Champ Lui-Pio of Hale and Xander Angeles.

There was a break-dancing competition that was judged by world-famous break-dancing champion and choreographer, BBoy Crumbs. The DJs that brought the house down were Manolet Dario, JJ Flores, Miss Lisa, GP Reyes, Mars Miranda and Invisibl Skratch Piklz featuring DJ QBert, Shortkut and Yogafrog. The real highlight of the two-day event was the Car Show proper where over $5,000 in cash prizes were up for grabs. Judged by RJ De Vera and LJ Garcia, legendary figures in the car-tuning scene, a dazzling display of well-pimped rides competed for 12 exciting categories.

Dennis Go's beautifully-modified 1995 Honda Civic bagged the Best in Show award and the $1,000 prize. Best SUV/Truck honors went to the awesome Ford 180 of Johnny Chua. Irwin Dizon's Chevy Impala won Best Lowrider. Gerald Hidalgo's 1996 Honda Civic actually won both in the Best Paint and Best Graphics category while Alec Ong's 2005 Honda Jazz also won two awards—Best Multimedia and Best Audio Install. Other awards were won by ERS for Best Team, Atoy Body Shop for Best Team Representation while Import Hook-Ups of a Honda 52000 and Toyota Altezza of Philson Co and Keith Bryan Ham took home the SX Choice Award. Other category winners are: Nissan Open—Vic Pena (Nissan 350Z), Mitsubishi Open—Alvin Gan (Evo8), Toyota Open—Richie Wee (Toyota Camry), Japanese Open—Ronald Nazal (Subaru STI WRC), American Open—Elmer Parrenas (Ford Lynx 2001 series), European Open—Allen Dizon (Audi TT), Korean Open—Lyman Chua (Hyundai Getz), Dub Open—Tony Pineda (Ford Expedition).

RJ De Vera, a consultant for the movie "The Fast And The Furious" was impressed with the car show entries. "A good number of them will definitely do well in car shows in the States," he said. "My advice to those who want to build their own cars and seriously pursue this career is that you have to give it time and you got to love what you do.

More than anything else, you have to do it for yourself."

Start revving up your engines for next year's tour. It's going to be another thrilling ride.

Fashion

From page F4

1940s Varga girls with bright lips and eyeliner. "She was literally born under a lucky star and everything she does is just perfect and gorgeous," Greene describes. "She knows the right makeup, the right hair, the right outfits—everything comes to her very easily."

Greene also found the task of making Lohan's eyes "visible but hidden" a challenge. "We wanted to see her and not see her; make it gorgeous and beautiful but also make it a masquerade," Greene says. The final look chosen for the masquerade ball is Italian-themed, inspired by traditional Venetian masks. Greene used Swarovski crystals and swirls of gold traced around Ashley's eyes. "The look starts out flawless," Greene says. "But when she loses her luck, everything becomes smeary. We see a physical transformation which helps to sell the idea that her luck has really gone sour."

The newly-unlucky Ashley wears a hodgepodge of clothes that reflect her unfortunate turn of events. "She starts borrowing clothes from other people, which puts her in a lot of color and a lot of different kinds of clothing that she would never have worn as Ashley, the successful and lucky young woman," says Jones. "Her 'borrowed look' is a mish-mash of sorts and takes her into a palette of bright colors, casual clothing and jeans. Her hair and makeup become clean and simple, with a natural prettiness showing through."

Ashley's look hits rock bottom as she gets doused with real mud. Greene put in a bid to help Lohan through it by offering up face mask mud instead of real mud, but Lohan refused, "I was like, fine, let me just do it," she says, laughing.

Andy on the Runway

Anne Hathaway plays Andy Sachs who just got of college in the fashion-forward comedy "The Devil Wears Prada" opposite Meryl Streep. As Andy steps into the dizzying world of New York fashion where Runway Magazine is considered the Holy Grail, it dawns on her that being Miranda's (Streep) assistant will take more than drive and determination.

To become the perfect assistant, Andy will need to make herself over in Miranda's image. Soon, much to her boyfriend's (Adrian Grenier) dismay, she can talk the talk, walk the walk flawlessly and never again confuse Dolce with Gabbana. But the more of life she sees through Miranda's eyes, the more she begins to grasp that Miranda's world is a fabulous but a terribly lonely one—and that sometimes great success depends on great sacrifice.

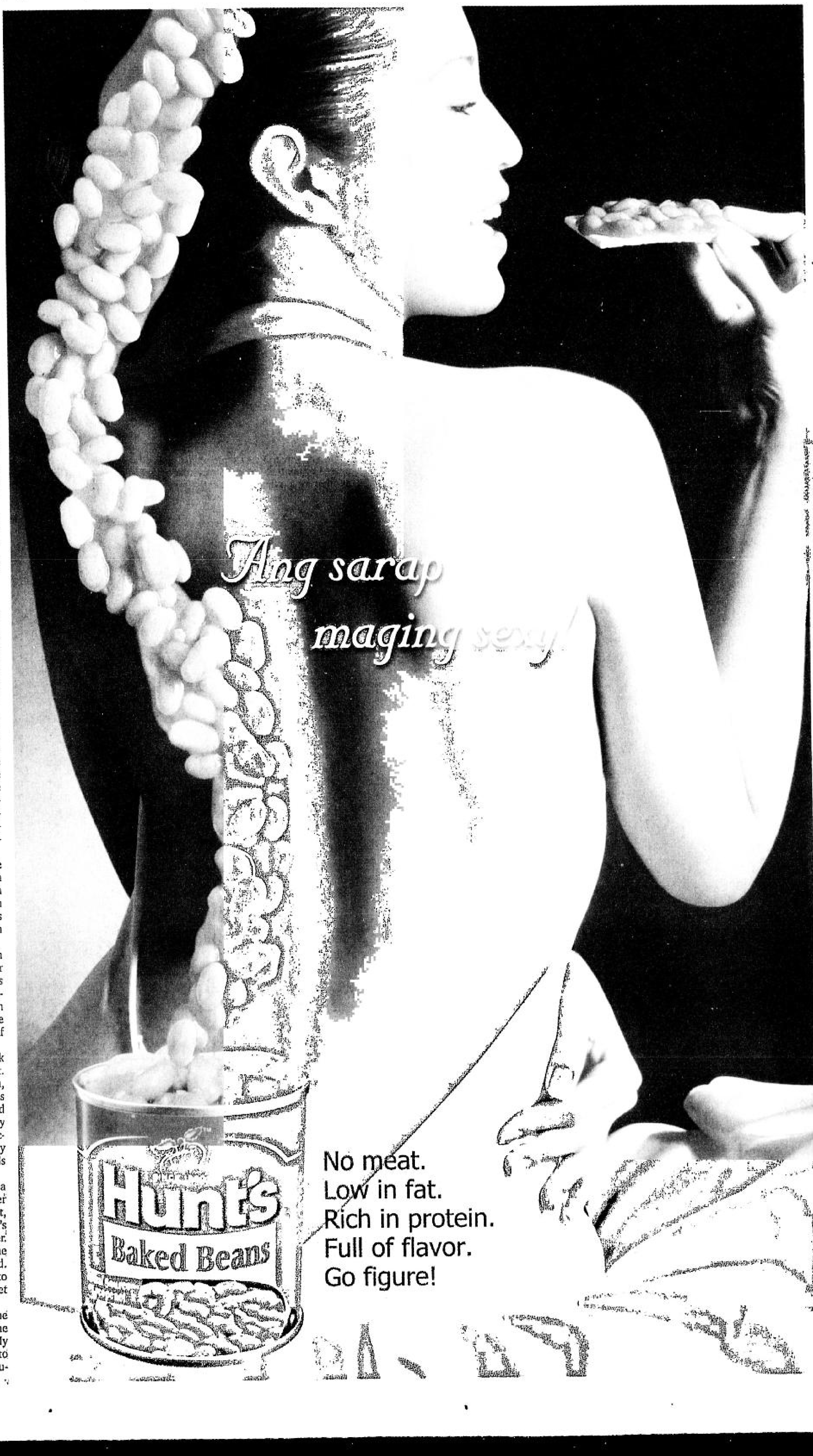
Anne Hathaway, the breakout star of "The Princess Diaries," and who had a key role in "Brokeback Mountain," portrays Andy, a journalism student who believes she can change the world after leaving the comforts of Northwestern University and landing in the big city.

Andy, says (director) David Frankel, "is on a journey that we all take when we get our first jobs and discover what the real world is like. We're faced with ethical and moral choices that we never considered, and we learn about ourselves." Hathaway adds, "If you're over age 21, you've probably had some of Andy's experiences."

In the distorted aesthetics of the New York fashion scene, a size 6 like Andy stands out. "She is a beautiful girl who is not model-thin, which is an important distinction for this character," says Frankel. Hathaway embodied Andy with grace and humor. "Anne is funny and will do things in a way that not a lot of actors could do," Finerman adds, "and every time she does so, it is fresh and new. She finds the funny and never holds back."

Andy's first moments with Miranda are a soul-crushing disaster. Judged simply by her cotton blend sweater and shapeless skirt, Andy is dismissed with a wave of Miranda's hand. But Andy doesn't take no for answer. She may not be the best-dressed girl in the room, but she's smart and she'll work hard. This makes an impression on a woman to whom no one dares even ask a question, let alone contradict.

Dressed in drab or face full of mud, Anne Hathaway and Lindsay Lohan pull it off in the most drop-dead gorgeous fashion in "Just My Luck" and "The Devil Wears Prada," soon to open in Philippine cinemas from 20th Century Fox to be distributed by Warner Bros.



No meat.
Low in fat.
Rich in protein.
Full of flavor.
Go figure!

Fashion sensibilities set in Motion

ANNE Hathaway as Andy Sachs

LUCKY Lindsay

DROP-DEAD GORGEOUS TRENDSETters Lindsay Lohan and Anne Hathaway hit it cool and chic in the workplace as they blend their own style sensibilities in the upcoming fashion comedies "Just My Luck" and "The Devil Wears Prada."

"Just My Luck" is the story of Ashley Albright (Lindsay Lohan), the luckiest woman in the world, a person to whom all the good things in life have come far too easily.

Lucky Ashley

She can pick a lottery ticket at random and hit the jackpot. In New York, the world's busiest city, Ashley never has to wait for a cab. And she has a terrific job as an account executive at a prestigious public relations firm. Everything goes Ashley's way. She was never prepared for her luck to run out during a masquerade ball when she got together with Jake (Chris Pine) on the dance floor. At that moment, their luck switched and Ashley's world turns upside down.

Lohan, a fashion enthusiast, relished the opportunity to bring her sensibilities to Ashley's wardrobe. At the film's start, Ashley's "lucky look" is quickly established. "She is this pristine, dressed-in-white, almost impermeable person who can walk through the streets of New York and never get a drop of anything on her," says Jones. "She wears a white Versace cashmere coat in the opening shots of the movie. Underneath is a sheer top in a creamy white color with gold threads and a great silk charmeuse skirt. Very pale, high-heeled Valentino boots, a pale Valentino purse and a white cashmere pashmina complete the look. She starts out in white and in shades of white and continues that way until she loses her luck."

To create that pristine, untouchable sparkle, makeup artist Kimberly Greene patterned Ashley's masquerade makeup after the

FASHION/ F3

ANDY slowly morphs into Miranda.

LINDSAY Lohan as Ashley Albright

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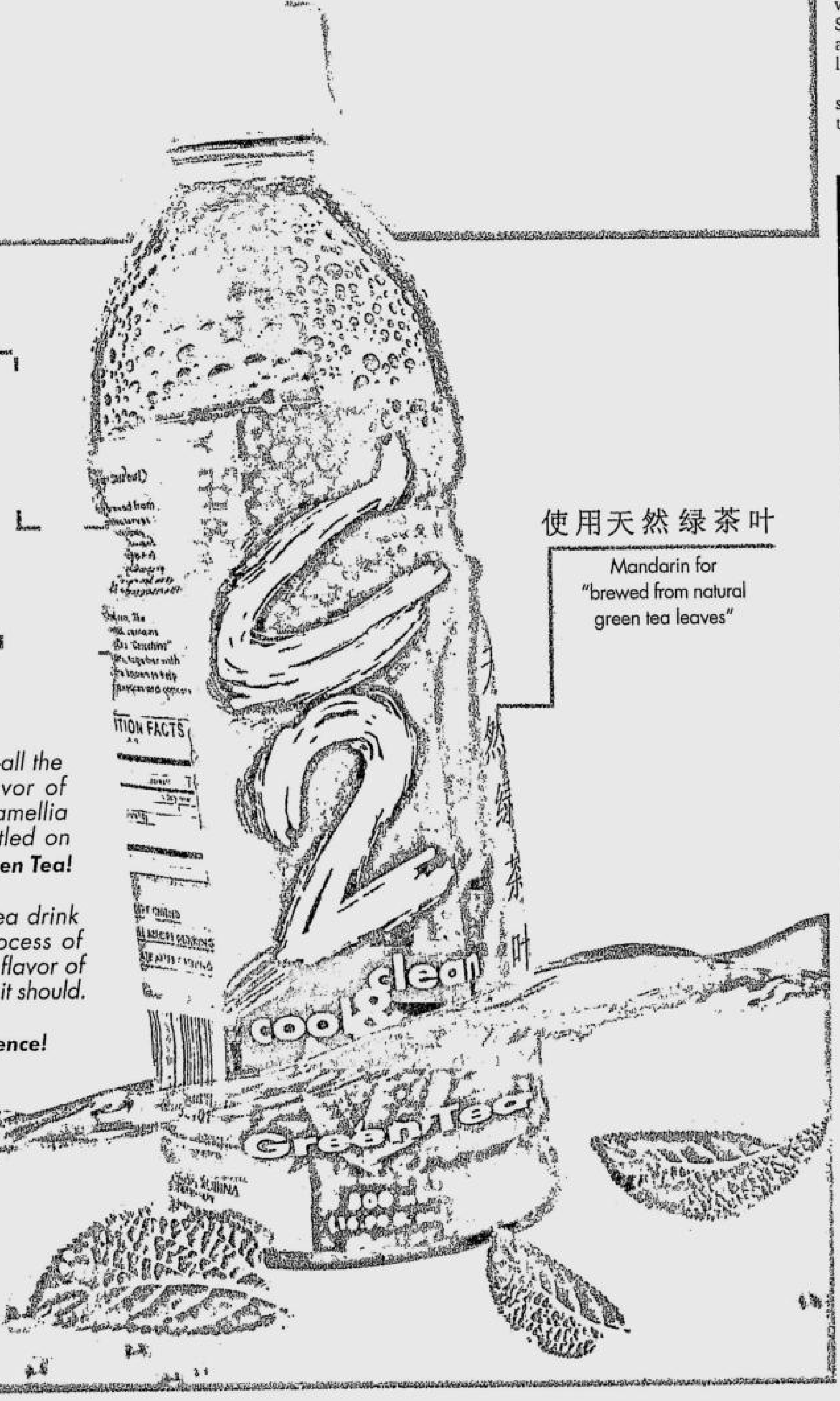

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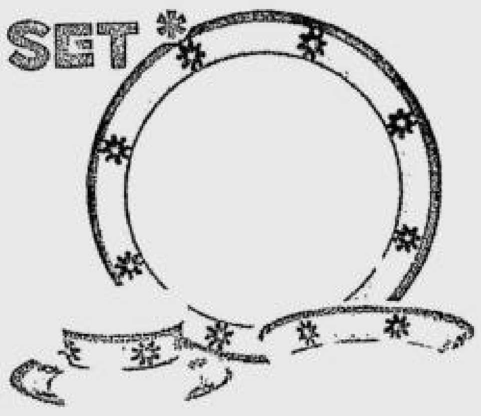

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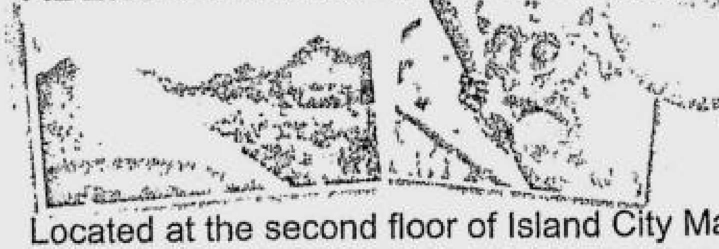

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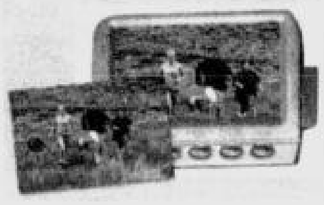

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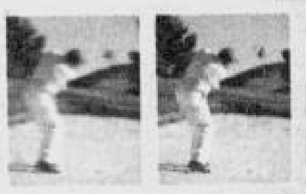

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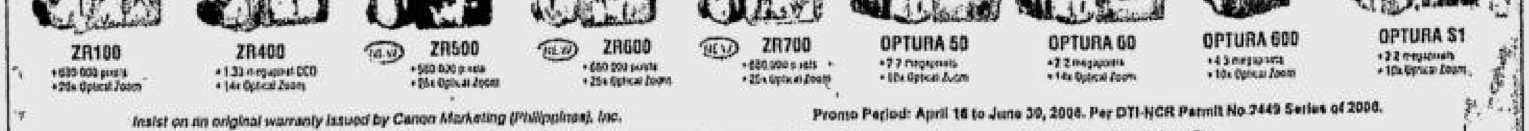

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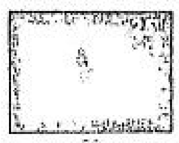

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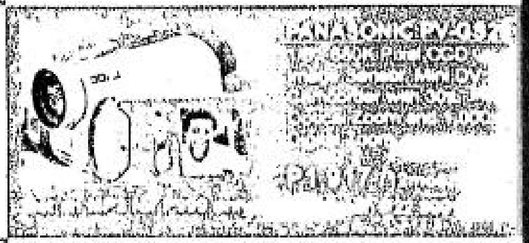

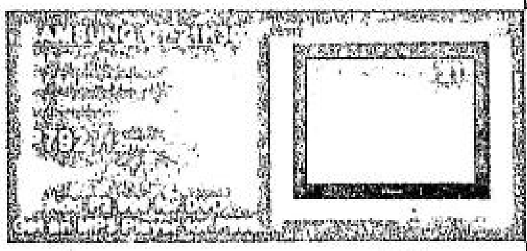

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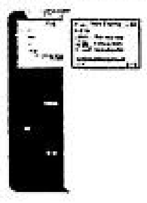

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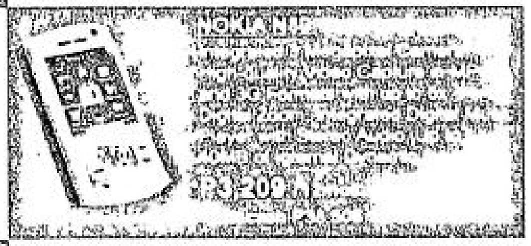

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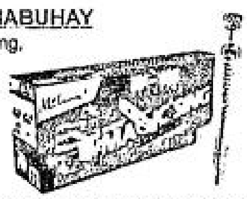

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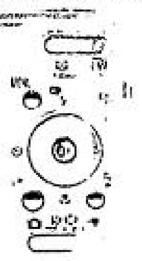

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June 30	Sony	Alabang	Friday	3:30-6:00 pm
July 1	Sony	Eastwood, Libis	Saturday	5:00-7:30 pm
July 1	Canon	Cyberzone, SM North Edsa	Saturday	4:00-6:00 pm
July 2	Sony	Avant, Greenbelt	Sunday	4:00-6:30 pm
July 7	Canon	Eastwood, Libis	Friday	4:00-6:00 pm
July 8	Sony	Robinson's Place Ermita	Saturday	4:00-6:30 pm
July 9	Sony	Robinson's Galleria	Sunday	4:30-7:00 pm
July 15	Sony	Harrison Plaza	Saturday	4:30-7:00 pm
July 16	Sony	Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall	Sunday	4:00-6:30 pm
July 16	Canon	Robison's Galleria	Sunday	4:00-6:00 pm
July 22	Sony	Missouri, Greenhills	Saturday	4:00-6:30 pm
July 23	Canon	Robinson's Place Ermita	Sunday	4:00-6:00 pm
July 23	Sony	Market! Market! Mall	Sunday	4:00-6:30 pm
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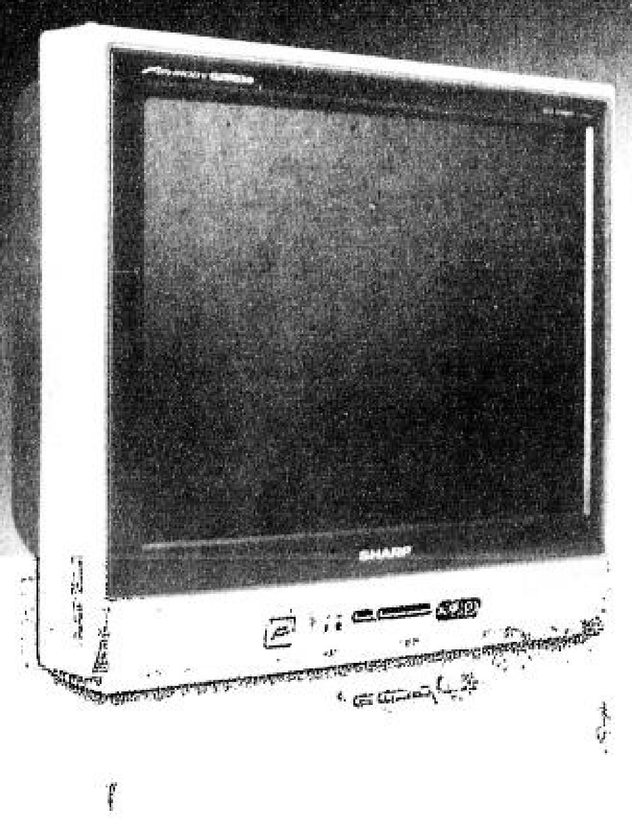

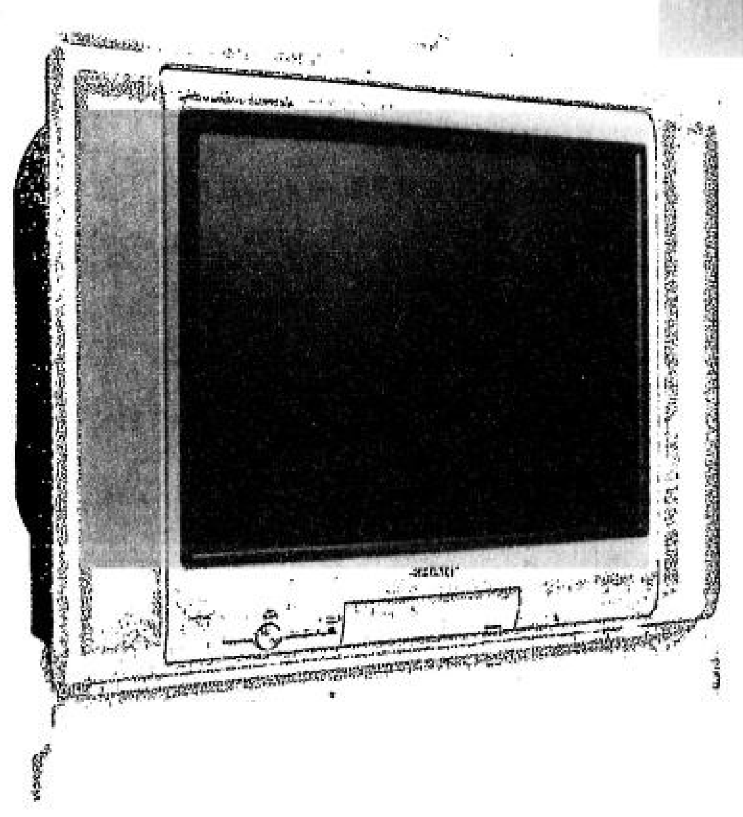

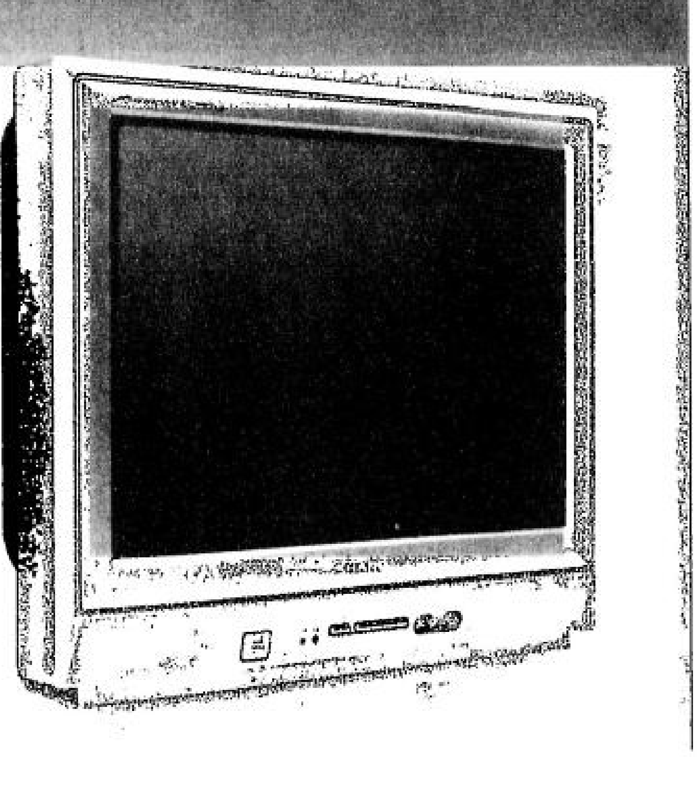

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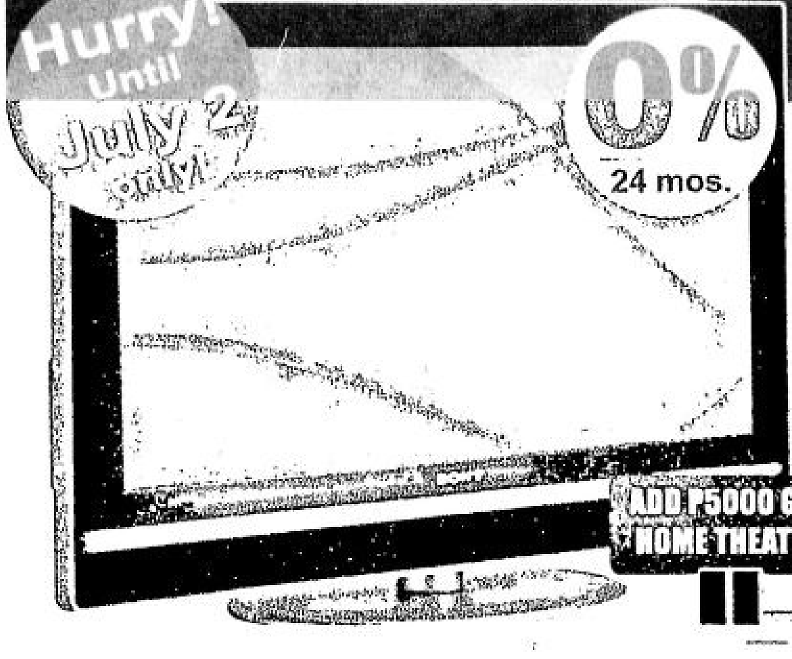

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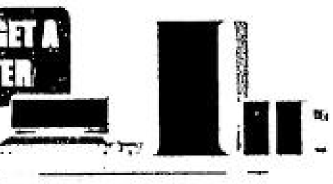

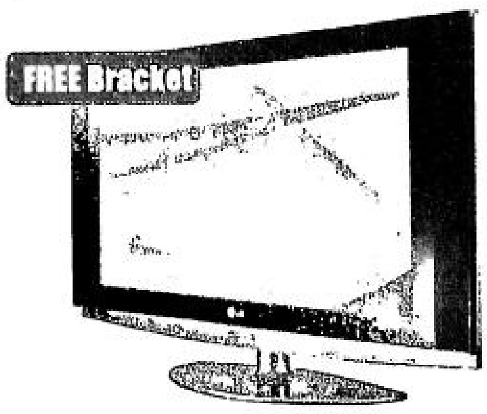

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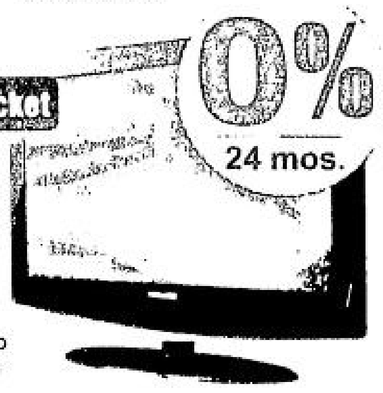

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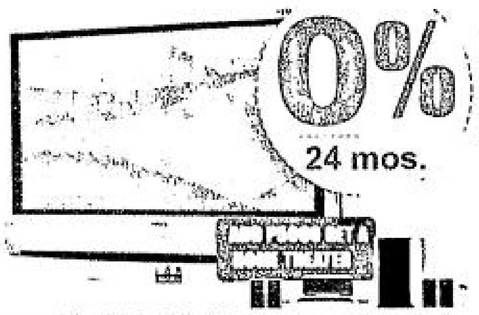

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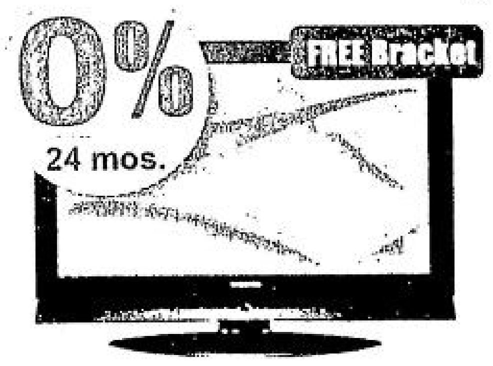

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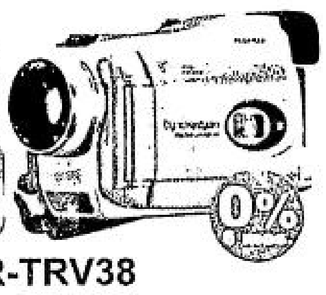

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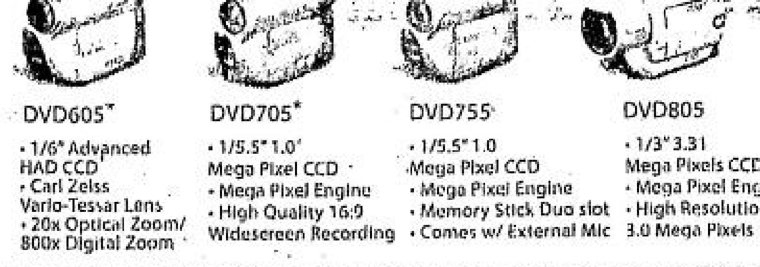

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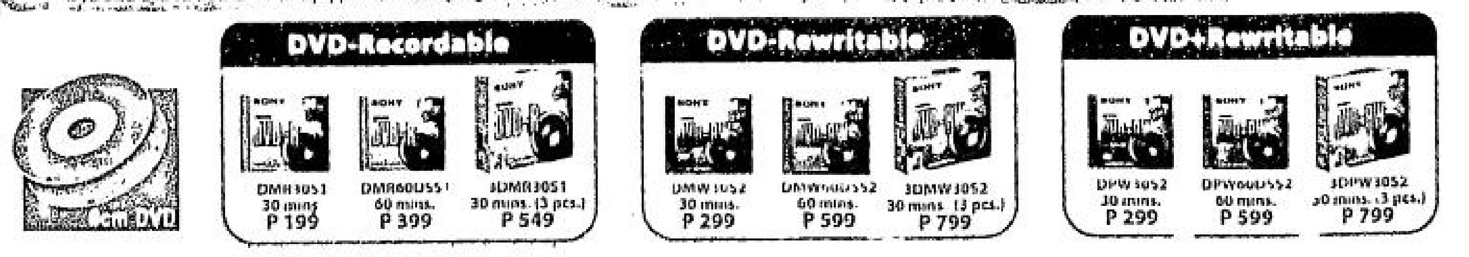

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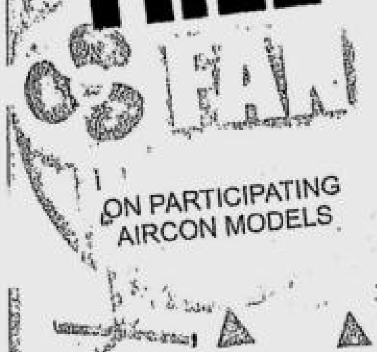

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14,799 cash
4,933 per month for 3 months

0%

FREE
INDUSTRIAL FAN

WHIRLPOOL WBM 10
10 cubic feet, no frost,
360° surround cool
horizontal door handle
19,995 cash
3,333 per month for 6 months

FREE
STANDFAN

0%

CONDURA WCOND006EA
.5HP manual control ,anti
bacterial filter ,10 stage anti
rust treatment
8,764 cash

FREE
STANDFAN

0%

CARRIER WCARF010EA
1HP manual control
energy saving function
4way air distribution
14,678 cash

FREE
16PC DINNERWARE SET

WHIRLPOOL AVM 585
1.0 cubic feet, electronic
control double emission
system, quartz grill function
8,498 cash

*Promo applicable on Cash and card purchases. Applicable on selected models. Picture may vary from actual item. Prices and specifications may change without prior notice Per DTI NCR Permit no 1366 Series of 2006

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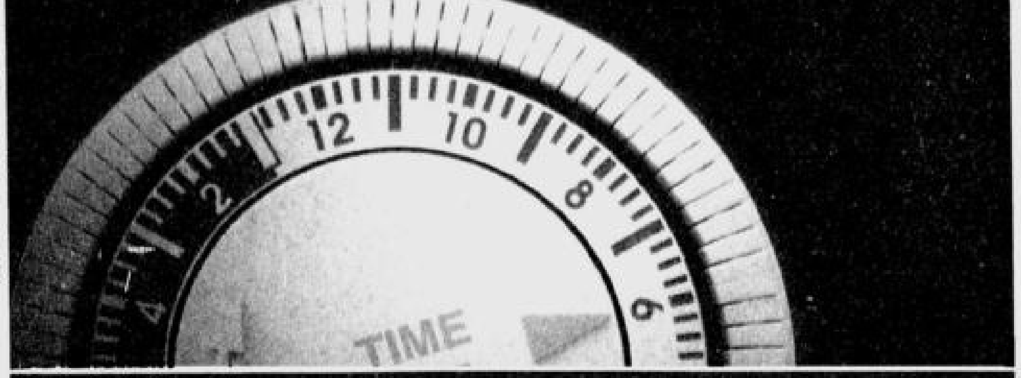
ABENSON

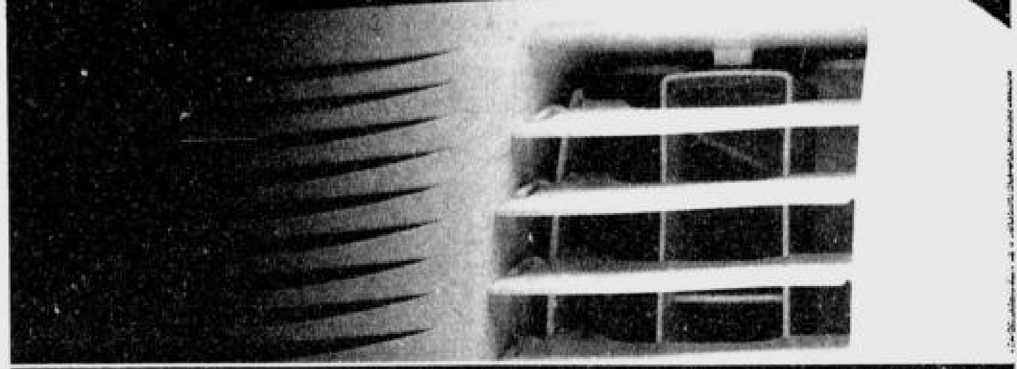
The exclusive programmable CHRONOSWITCH® & ENERGY SAVING PLUG®

Save up to 40% on electricity consumption.



The exclusive NOISESHIELD® anti-noise system

So quiet you can almost hear a pin drop.



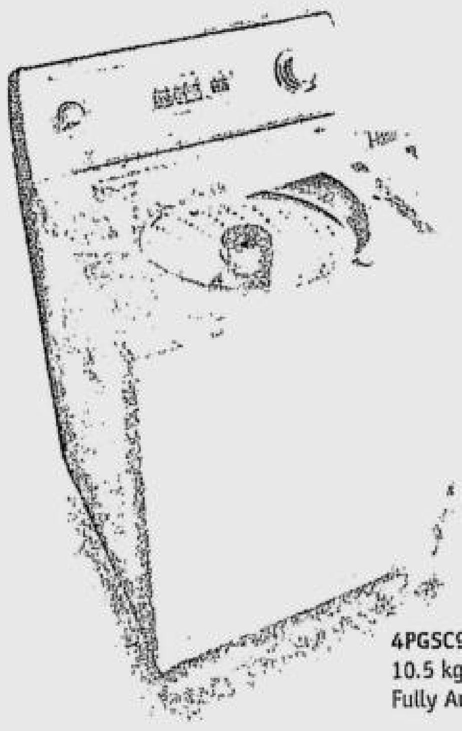
The exclusive DURA-LAST® technology

Optimized anti-rust design.

CONDURA

The better choice made even better.

HANDWASHED CLEAN DONE HANDS-FREE



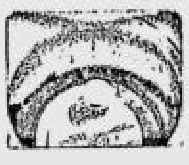
4PGSC9455
10.5 kg
Fully Automatic Washer

When it's superb engineering and intuitive performance you're after, the **Whirlpool Washing Machine** is all that and more. With its hassle-free innovation, it has the ability to take on big loads without taking too much of your time. It is also conveniently designed to take care of the toughest of stains in the most delicate of fabrics, almost as if you washed it by hand.

Now this is what cleaning power is all about.

Xtra Roll Action Agitator
Ensures roll over of clothes for a cleaner, whiter wash.

Hotwash Function
Guarantees the removal of stubborn dirt with the built-in heater.



Heavy Duty Large Capacity
Can accommodate huge loads without compromising quality.

4PLBR8543
10.5 kg
Fully Automatic Washer

WWT24H
10.5 kg
Fully Automatic Washer with Hotwash

WWD22
8.5 kg
Fully Automatic Washer with Stainless Tub

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